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A CATECHISM

OF

IRISH GEOGRAPHY

AND

TOPOGRAPHY,

PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL,

FOR SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES,

BY

JOHN H. GREENE,

AUTHOR OF "A MEMOIR OF LANIGAN."

"We must forget all feelings save the one,
We must behold no object save our country."—BYRON.

PRICE, (WITH COLORED MAP,) ONE DOLLAR AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS.

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TO

THE MOST REVEREND

JOHN BAPTIST PURCELL, D. D.,

FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE, WITH PERMISSION, INSCRIBED,

As a Token of

ESTEEM AND GRATITUDE,

BY HIS HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

To write a book without books, is something like making a tool without tools; and to expect a creditable geography of Ireland without the writings of Kirwan, Griffith, and Portlock on its geology—of Keogh, Mackay, and White on its botany—of Young, Wakefield, and Curwin on its agriculture and social condition—of Kane on its general productive capacity—of Frazer on its mines and fisheries—of Ware, O'Reilly, and Wills on its biography—of Petrie on its architecture—of the Collectanea and the Dublin Penny Journal, on its antiquities—of Burke on its peerage—Simon on its coins, and Croker on its legends—without the local dictionaries of Lewis, Gorton, and Carlisle—without the Surveys of the Dublin Society—without the natural histories of Boate and Berkenhoist—without the excursions of Fisher, Brewer, and Mrs. Hall on its scenery—without having ever seen one of the two hundred quarto manuscript volumes of antiquities by the Ordnance Survey—one of its three thousand manuscript name books; and, worst of all, without one of its ten hundred superb maps—without Thom's Almanac, Mr. Donnelly's Returns, the Devon Report, a single census, or a single blue-book—is something like expecting a Prologomena from Lanigan, or his Commentaries from Clarke, without conceding to either a copy of the Septuagint. Those works are the topographical Scriptures of Ireland; and a single glance at any one of them, by the present writer, has not been a possibility during the production of the following pages. The home apothegm of "finding a needle in a bundle of straw," obligingly circumscribes the difficulty by telling where the needle is to be found; but what wizard can tell where Hamilton's Letters on Antrim—Dubourdieu, Giesekie, or Whitehurst on the Giant's Causeway—Piers on Westmeath—Downing on Mayo—Smith on Cork and Kerry—Ryland on Waterford—Hardiman on Galway—Sampson on Derry, and Grose on Meath, are to be found on the banks of the Ohio? It is a positive fact, that in the neighboring city of Louisville, with a population as large as that of Limerick, there could not be found, last year, a map of Ireland to illustrate, for a moderate audience, a lecture upon the subject of this volume, the *artistic* substitute having been a barbarous outline of the Irish coast, in chalk, on a blackboard!

It is due to the country here undertaken to be portrayed, and it is due to the writer, to have this very qualifying fact set forth; and if the character of the former were not as much involved as that of the latter, the latter would consult his own feelings by withholding, because of its personal complexion, a circumstance still more qualifying. Though having, for several years, made preparations for supplying, in the old land

itself, a long and deep-felt want—that of a well digested and carefully-worded school and family geography of Ireland—it little occurred to him that he should ever be thrown, in the new world, upon those compilations and observations, as a means of subsistence. Such, however, came to pass about nine months ago, soon after his arrival in this country, when this publication was first commenced, in nearly hebdomidal issues of eight pages each; yet he trusts, that a higher motive soars herein than any which scuds around the stagnant depths of mere self-interest. This periodical form of publication at once set going the ordinary wheel of consequent periodical duties; and, as a single line here published was not composed before that date, it created the inevitable necessity of writing *to catch time*. Thus, between canvassing for subscribers, writing the next "number," correcting the proof-sheets, delivering every copy of every issue, keeping and collecting small accounts, and even binding the "parts," one poor literary factotum was well split; the delivery alone keeping him on the foot four days successively out of the seven! To the original subscribers in Cincinnati, Newport, and Covington, these facts, which they know so well, need not be recalled, except as a complete apology for the long trial of patience, to which this tedious routine has subjected them, and of which their humble servant is deeply and gratefully sensible.

Such are the very uninviting circumstances under which the following pages have been produced; yet, the consequent topographical and typographical commissions and omissions will be found of little material consequence, perhaps not more serious than the sly *lapsus* on page 107, where a nominal coincidence has transferred an historical association from Baltimore, in Longford, to Baltimore, in Cork. Respecting the interrogatory form and the extreme explicitness of the composition, they proceed from a sincere contempt of literary pretension at the expense of *utility*—the deliberate exchange of the rhetorician's esteem for the plain man's thanks.

To omit, in the midst of these reminiscences, the name of George Petrie, LL. D., M. R. I. A., &c. &c., should argue, in the writer, either a little head or a little heart. To this gentleman's friendship, since 1849, he is indebted for his privileges in the great Library of the Dublin University, and that of the Royal Dublin Society; and to E. R. Colles, Esq., Librarian of the latter institution, to Dr. Todd and Dr. Graves, Senior Fellows of the former, and his securities therein, he deems this the most appropriate place to make known his obligations. The first-named of these three gentlemen has secured his special gratitude; and, though not in immediate connection with this little production, he can not forget, in this place, a proved literary and personal friend, whose political virtue and large talents first inspired him with a turn in the direction of fatherland—Charles Gavan Duffy.

His acknowledgments are now ended, when he adds—that, from his own personal experience, a few manuscript volumes of notes, a pocket manual, named "the Hibernean Gazetter," printed in "1789," and now nearly half obsolete, a few books acknowledged through the work, and lent him by two or three of his subscribers, in particular by the Very Rev. E. T. Collins, V. G., and W. G. Halpin, Esq., the following pages are compiled.

Cincinnati May 23, 1859. J. H. G.

GREENE'S GENERAL

GEOGRAPHY OF IRELAND.

ADAPTED TO [illegible]

INTRODUCTION. NOMENCLATURE.

CHAPTER I. — PROVINCES.

QUESTION. Since great numbers of the American people have come from Ireland, and since Ireland is now connected with America by the Atlantic Cable, I should like to know something about that country?

ANSWER. That is right. Look, then, on the map of Europe—that second largest island is Ireland.

I see. Ireland, then, is surrounded by the sea, and is nearer to America than any other nation in Europe.

Exactly so; and for this reason all messages sent from America to the old world, by the Atlantic telegraph, must first come to Ireland.

What two points, belonging to the two continents, are connected by the Cable?

Trinity Bay in Newfoundland, and Valentia Bay in Ireland.

Show me Valentia Bay on the map.

There it is, in the county of Kerry and province of Munster.

I now perceive that Ireland is divided into counties, like the United States and Great Britain, but what are provinces?

The word "province" literally means, a country that has lost its independence.

How many provinces does Ireland consist of?

Four, named Leinster, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught.

And were these four territories formerly independent and separate countries?

They were, for many centuries; first, they were governed by kings, and afterward by presidents.

Have they separate governments now?

No; they are now united under one governor, who goes by

the title of Lord-Lieutenant or Viceroy, and who keeps his court in Dublin, the capital.

What, then, is the use of still retaining the old division of provinces?

It is a very pretty division, and is still useful for legal and ecclesiastical purposes.

Please explain.

I mean that, for the better administering of the laws, countries are sectioned into judicial circuits, as is the case in America and Great Britain. Ireland has four such circuits, corresponding to the four provinces. And, as to church government, the same arrangement is equally convenient. Since the twelfth century, each of these quarters has been a separate archiepiscopal province. Besides, if you look at the map of Ireland, you will see there are natural grounds for this quarterly division of the island.

I see now, the natural, the political, the judicial, and the ecclesiastical provinces are identical, in this country.

They are nearly so, and this is seldom the case. England, for instance, is divided into six judicial circuits, but only into two ecclesiastical provinces; and neither arrangement is based upon any obvious natural distinctions in the geography of the country. By a recent act of Parliament, the Established Church in Ireland was deprived of two of its archbishops, in order that it might resemble the Established Church in England, but the Irish Catholic church keeps up the ancient tetrarchal system.

CHAPTER II. — COUNTIES.

What are the objects of dividing countries into counties?

Chiefly, local government and representation in the legislature. Grand juries of counties look after the public roads, hospitals, jails, etc., within their respective shires; and every county has a sheriff, whose business it is to see that the law is executed within his district.

How many counties in Ireland?

Thirty-two: twelve in Leinster, nine in Ulster, six in Munster, and five in Connaught.

Why no more and no less?

Partly, because of natural causes, and partly, for political reasons, now not easily traced.

I 'm not satisfied; tell me the natural causes, and give me your idea of the political reasons.

All physical boundaries are the same in all countries, such as rivers, mountains, the sea, etc.

Name one Irish county determined by rivers.

I could several; but Antrim and Down, in the north-east of the island, are two complete instances.

Name an instance or two showing that hills or mountains have obviously done the same thing.

Sligo is completely encompassed by a circular chain of hills. Kerry is separated from Cork by a mountain line; while Donegal and Wicklow are plainly determined by their mountain features.

Any other illustrations of a similar kind?

Every one of the counties affords such, more or less; and not only the larger, but also the smaller subdivisions, as baronies, parishes, and townlands. Look at all those promontories indicated on the map: every one is a separate barony, while no part of the county Clare passes beyond the natural boundary line by which it is almost insulated.

Now I should like to know what are the political reasons to which you have alluded?

In ancient times the island was cut up into a great many principalities, each controlled by its own lord or chief; and some of the present divisions are exactly identical with the chieftaincies upon which they were founded.

Give an instance.

The O'Tooles owned the mountain district now constituting the county of Wicklow. The O'Donnells (one of whom was Dictator of Spain in 1857 and '58) held Tir-Connell, now named Donegal. The patrimony of the Maguires surrounded Lough Erne, and is now the county Fermanagh. Tyrone, (Tir-Owen, or the land of Owen,) before it was reduced to shire-ground, was much more extensive, as the territory of the O'Neills; and some of the smaller shires of Ulster would seem to be slices of it handed over to sheriffs, one by one, as they were taken by the strong arm of England, in its long struggle with that powerful family.

CHAPTER III. — TOWNS.

I recollect you said Dublin is the capital of Ireland; where is Dublin?

It is in the county of Dublin and province of Leinster, nearly opposite to Liverpool at the other side of the Irish Sea.

How far is Dublin from Liverpool?

One hundred and twenty miles; but Holyhead, at the nearest corner of Wales, is only about half that distance.

What place does Dublin hold among the cities and towns of the British Empire?

It is second to London only; but Liverpool and Manchester have larger populations, and either is more wealthy.

How, then, does Dublin rank as the second city in the British Isles?

By reason of its superior beauty, owing to its picturesque location, and splendid public buildings; its importance as the capital of an ancient nation, which makes it the centre of a great many civil, political, and social institutions, besides being the seat of the vice-regal court.

I have heard of Cork and Belfast — are they in Ireland?

Yes. Cork is the second city in the island, and is situated in the county of Cork and province of Munster. Belfast is the capital of Ulster, and belongs to the county of Antrim. The chief town of Connaught is Galway, upon an outlet of Lough Corrib.

Are these all seaports?

They are, and places of considerable trade with Great Britain and America.

I have heard of Limerick lace and gloves — where is that city?

In Munster, near the mouth of the Shannon. It ranks before Galway, and till lately was considered the third city in Ireland; but Belfast has shot far ahead of it in every respect, and promises to treat Cork in the same way.

Which are the other principal towns in Ireland?

The cities of Waterford and Derry, in the extreme south and north of the island, and the inland cities of Kilkenny and Armagh: all these are the chief towns of the counties so named. Newry, in county Down, Sligo, in Connaught, Drogheda and Dundalk, in Louth, are important and increasing seaports.

We have now learned something of the political and social geography of the country—what next?

If you please, its great natural features.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER IV.— BIRD'S-EYE VIEW.

I should like to know how Ireland would look from a balloon, supposing it possible to take the whole island in at a glance?

That is what is termed a "bird's-eye view," and such is the view presented by all good maps.

I see, then, by this map of Ireland, that the island is somewhat square in contour, and very much cut up on the coast—is that so?

It is; the shape is that of an irregular rhomboid, whose length is to its breadth as three to two.

Let me understand you?

I mean that the longest straight line that can be drawn on the country is 306 miles; and its breadth, measured at right angles to that line, is 210 miles, and passes through Mayo and Wexford.

How much ground looks up to the sky in Ireland?

In round numbers, the area is about twenty-one millions of acres.

Please be exact.

Well, exactly 31,874 square miles, or 20,808,271 acres.

Is this much or little, when compared with the areas of other countries?

Of course, it is much less than that of Great Britain, which includes three nationalities; but it is a good deal more than the united areas of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, the three next most important islands belonging to Europe. It is equal to a whole group of German Principalities, including the kingdom of Wurtemburg. It wants but little of being twice as extensive as the States of the Church. One province of it is larger than the sovereign State of Tuscany. Ireland would

make two republics, either as big as Switzerland. It is more spacious than the kingdoms of Holland and Belgium put together; while it supports a larger population than the vast peninsula of Sweden and Norway united.

Looking down on this important island from a bird's-eye point of view, what are its broad physical features?

A great central plain, protected from the ocean by a sublime coast, and from the storms by surrounding mountains, spacious bays, bold head-lands, with many lakes, peat-fields, and rivers.

CHAPTER V. — VOLCANIC TRACES.

What is the theory of mountains?

That they have been protruded through the level plain by subterranean force, which force is supposed to be that of fire.

What! chains of mountains rising above the clouds, stretching in length hundreds of miles, and spreading in breadth over whole districts, to be lifted up out of the bowels of the earth?

Precisely so. Burning mountains are met with in every part of the globe, and all history refers to them. That there is such a thing as subterranean fire is thus made manifest; and actual boring through the crust of the earth has demonstrated, that the internal temperature of the globe increases, according to depth, at the rate of one degree for every mile nearer the centre. But the centre of the earth is four thousand miles from us, and four thousand degrees of heat more than we have, would melt iron.

But would it be sufficient to lift the Wicklow Mountains?

I do think so. In 1819 the plain of Cutch, in Hindostan, was elevated ten feet throughout an extent of 750 square miles, while about as much more of the same plain was depressed at the same instant. Earthquakes have been felt in every age and every country, rocking the very mountains themselves, and capsizing cities, with as much ease as you would a house of cards. Jeddo, the capital of volcanic Japan, was overturned in 1705, and still later, in 1856, when near half a million of souls were ushered into eternity, in an instant. In 1822 Aleppo, in Turkey, met a similar fate, and had twenty thousand of its inhabitants buried alive. Lisbon fared still

worse, when that capital was overturned by an earthquake, and the whole peninsula convulsed

Yes, and lately the papers brought us such another tale from Mexico. But is it known that Ireland is within the sphere of volcanic influence?

It is. A subterranean shock awoke all the British Isles on the night of Tuesday, the 9th of November, 1852, and was strongly felt in Dublin, and all along the Irish coast. And it is rather noticeable, that this is the mountain line in Ireland.

Anything else in the same direction.

Yes; the geology of the whole north of Ireland, but more especially of Antrim, is exceedingly curious and interesting. Ulster is more disturbed than any other of the provinces, and this fact is quite in keeping with its contiguity to agitated Scotland.

How far is Ulster from Scotland?

Only about ten miles; and the miracle on the north coast of Antrim, which is partly repeated at the other side of the channel, baffles all conjecture, if this igneous hypothesis be given up.

Pray, what miracle is on the north coast of Antrim?

The "Giants' Causeway," so named because of a notion among the peasantry, that it is the work of ancient giants; and, till recently, even intelligent visitors thought this great geological phenomenon betrayed too much design, to be the accidental effect of any natural cause. But, now, there is no second opinion about it among scientific men.

Proceed, I shall stop from my dinner to hear all about it!

Its full description will be given in a future page of this work, under its proper head, "Scenery."

Does any other country possess such a curiosity?

Yes, but nothing of the kind on so large a scale, has yet been discovered. The whole interior of this county Antrim is strewn with manifestly volcanic remains. And phenomena of a similar type are met with at Murat, in central France, and the Isle of Staffa, in Scotland.

CHAPTER VI. — THE LIMESTONE PLAIN.

I have heard it said that Holland is all flat, and Switzerland all mountainous; but I see both features are blended in Ireland?

Yes, but the plain predominates by a great deal. It comprehends twenty counties, and is so varied that, compared with Holland, it is no plain at all. Much of the Netherlands is lower than the level of the sea; but the Irish plain is from two to three hundred feet above it. In Westmeath and Ulster it rolls very much. In Roscommon it very softly undulates. In Longford and Cavan it is still more varied. In the King's County it is cut right across by the Slievebloom chain, from one to two thousand feet high. In Tipperary it assumes the shape of long, extended vales, flanked by hills and boldly relieved by the towering Galties at one side, and the Devil's Bit at the other. The celebrated Rock of Cashel, with the sublimest ruins in Western Europe on its top, rises abruptly out of the Golden Vale. The Rock of Dunamase, in the Queen's County, is such another interruption; and, also, the fine, rolling country between Cashel and Killenaule, in which neighborhood is the isolated and historic Mount of Slieve-na-mon, one of the boldest in the country.

Why, then, do you call this central district a plain?

Because the higher interruptions of Tipperary, Westmeath, and the King's County, are few and far between, while the lesser are cultivated, like the surrounding country, and dwindle down to insignificance, compared with the elevated barriers that surround them.

Is no part of this general plain a perfect level, like Holland, Denmark, or Lombardy?

Yes; all Kildare, much of Meath, and the great peat belt, known as the Bog of Allen. Kildare has one of the finest racing-grounds in Europe; and even here, right down on the Curragh, there are modulations of surface which serve spectatators as natural platforms, or "stands," at that Epsom of Ireland.

What is the Geology of this plain?

Very simple; limestone being the surface rock all over it, hence it is named the Limestone Plain; hence, also, its great fertility; and hence it is regarded as a section of the great plain of central Europe, which stretches from the Ural Mountains, across Russia, Hungary, Germany, and England.

CHAPTER VII. — THE MOUNTAINS.

When you spoke, in a former chapter, of the "surrounding mountains," did you mean to convey, that those of Ireland run in a circuitous chain around the central plain, like the rim round a plate?

Not exactly; but if your plate is more square than round, and a third longer than wide, if it be indented on the edge, and this rim filed down so as to leave nine or ten knobs standing in certain positions, it will then answer as a familiar, though a very unscientific, illustration of our subject: the Irish mountains are less concatenated than grouped.

Seeing that a plate conveys the idea of depression in the centre, while the Irish plain is so much above the level of the sea, I fancy this oblong table, with those books upon it, could be made to illustrate this point better.

Very good. All islands may be regarded as table lands in the sea, except those which have no level plain, such as the sugar-loaf island of Tenneriffe.

Is this maratime distribution of the Irish mountains of any economical advantage to the country?

Certainly. It spreads the charms of natural scenery all round the land, besides screening the low grounds from almost every wind that blows.

What is the direction of the most prevailing wind in Ireland?

South-westerly; and the storms which frequently sweep from this point of the compass are met at the very threshold (so to speak) by the highest and most extended group of mountains in the island.

But do not mountains interfere with agriculture, by taking from the arable surface of the country?

Most undoubtedly. Scotland, for instance, is almost as large as Ireland, but, owing to its mountain character, it has only about five millions of acres which can be cultivated, while Ireland has over thirteen millions fit for the plough. In like manner England, which is less mountainous than Ireland, has still more arable land in proportion to its area. In other words, one-fourth of Scotland, two-thirds of Ireland, and three-fourths of England, are capable of cultivation, principally on this account.

In what other way than those stated do the mountains of Ireland compensate for their encroachment on the arable surface?

They yield excellent building stone, in which England is rather deficient; and they are all, more or less, metalliferous; iron, lead, copper, silver, gold, and other metals, having been extracted from them, since the remotest times.

Do they still yield the useful and precious metals?

They do, abundantly; but for the want of wood, in which Ireland, like Scotland, is very deficient, the iron ores of Ireland can not be profitably smelted; but the silver and copper mines of Waterford, Tipperary, Wicklow, and Kerry, are well known; and so lately as eighty years ago, the government worked a gold mine in the Croghan mountains of Wicklow.

But do not mountains diminish the temperature of a country, and, if so, Ireland ought to be colder than England?

And perhaps it is; but this is owing to more special causes, which will be explained by and by. No mountain in Ireland or Great Britain is a mile in height, and it takes a full mile up in the air to diminish temperature five degrees. When up half way the highest mountain in Ireland, you experience no greater cold than you would in Derry after leaving Cork.

Have you arrived at that fact by personally traveling both ways?

No, it is an easy inference from the truth, that 328 feet high is tantamount to a degree of latitude, as respects climate.

Any other argument on this head?

Yes; the latitude of Ireland obliges the sun's rays to strike the plain of that country at an acute angle, to the great loss of much solar heat; the uplands, however, receive those rays at right angles, and thus a beautiful economy is consulted very much in the interests of temperature and vegetation.

Nothing more?

Looking at the history of Ireland, as well as the histories of Greece, Switzerland, Scotland, Circassia, and the world, it can not be denied, that mountains have always been the last and best body-guard of struggling Freedom.

CHAPTER VIII. — SAME SUBJECT — ELEVATIONS.

I should like to know the exact elevation of the highest mountain in each of the four countries?

The Irish mountains are higher than those of England, but lower than those of Scotland or Wales. The Scotch mountains

have more than one point higher than the highest in the three other countries. Here are their respective altitudes:

Ben Macdhui (Scotland),	4,390	feet.
Snowden (Wales),	3,571	"
Carntual (Ireland),	3,404	"
Scafell (England),	3,166	"

Compare these, now, with the highest on the continent.

If the four could be piled on each other, Mont Blanc would be still higher; while some peaks in Asia have nearly twice that altitude.

It appears, then, that the highest mountains are in tropical latitude, and that the mineral, as well as the animal and vegetable kingdoms, diminishes towards the cold poles.

It is indeed rather noticeable, that the highest mountains are found in the very regions which most need them, as if to show that the very accidents of nature reveal a Providence. Those mighty mountain-chains of the torrid zone, though under a vertical and scorching sun, have night-caps of snow on their heads, which they never doff, and, consequently, which never cease night and day to absorb the superabundant heat. Mountains, however, do not exhibit a *regular* stuntment, like vegetables, as they recede from the tropics.

I will thank you for an illustration.

The Scandinavian chain, for instance, is more than twice the elevation of Carntual, though the latter is so much more south.

In what part of Ireland is Carntual?

In Kerry: it is one of the MacGillicuddy's Reeks, so named from an ancient Irish family whose hereditary representative still holds, in courtesy and in law, the magniloquent title of "The MacGillicuddy of the Reeks."

Please to point out on the map a few of the highest groups, beginning with the most elevated.

Here they are in the order of size,—those of Kerry, Wicklow, Tipperary, Down, and Mayo:

The Reeks (Kerry),	3,404	feet.
Brandon (Kerry),	3,120	"
Lugnaguilla (Wicklow),	3,039	"
Galtymore (Tipperary),	3,008	"
Slievedonard (Down),	2,796	"
Mangerton (Kerry),	2,754	"
Mulrea (Mayo),	2,680	"

with some twenty-two other points, all more than two thousand feet high.

Does the geology of the Irish mountains bear out the igneous theory referred to in a former chapter?

It does. The Wicklow, Down, Mayo, Donegal, and other groups in Ulster and Connaught, are granite, or have a granite nucleus, with other crystalline conglomerations; but, strange to say, near the mouth of the Bann, where the most striking evidences of volcanic convulsion are strewn in all directions, fossils have been found under circumstances which give the lie to all geological theory!

What are fossils?

The word fossil is Latin, and literally means anything *dug up;* but, as a term in geology, it always signifies some animal or vegetable petrifaction, which, in "reason's ear," is very eloquent respecting the former state of our globe.

CHAPTER IX. — THE GREAT COAST.

Looking on the map of Ireland, I see the coast of that country is very much cut up, especially on the west—has that always been the case?

I think not. You see the island is greatly exposed to "the the infantry of the deep and the cavalry of the air."

I understand you: the action of the ocean and that of the atmosphere have frittered away parts of the coast and produced those great gaps?

In conjunction with other causes and circumstances, such appears to be the fact.

What are the other causes and circumstances?

Earthquakes, friable rocks, lakes and caverns: earthquakes split the land; friable rocks are easily splintered; lakes near a coast are its greatest enemy, and subterranean spaces undermine the ground itself.

Why, this hypothesis would go to explain all the terraqueous phenomena on the globe.

Very nearly, and the existence of Ireland itself *as an island.* Earthquakes crack isthmuses, upheave the bed of the sea, spill the ocean in on land, and thus are instantly produced islands, peninsulas, bays, harbors, straits, salt-water lakes, and all the other phases of marine landscape.

Is this merely your conjecture?

It is something more. History assures us it was in this or a

similar way that the Zuyder Zee was formed. That Zee (or sea) now occupies the bed of a Dutch lake, which sent out a river nearly as long as the Liffey, but lake and river are now nowhere!

You remind me of one of Moore's beautiful Melodies, which accounts for Lough Neagh in a similar way—

"On Lough Neagh's banks as the fisherman strays,
When the clear cold eve is declining,
He sees the Round Towers of other days
In the waves beneath him shining."

Such was the notion; but the fact is, that lake is not as deep as some of the Round Towers are high. Be the origin of Lough Neagh, however, what it may, we are told in the History of Holland that, in 1532, North Beveland, an island, thirteen miles by three, in the German Ocean, was overwhelmed, and only the tops of its steeples could be seen for years. And it was about the same time the salt lake near Dort was formed by a sudden inundation, to the destruction of seventy-two villages and twenty thousand people!

Anything peculiar about the Irish coast?

Yes; besides its geological peculiarities, referred to in a former place, it is one of the boldest in the world. From Fair Head, at the North Channel, all round westward to "Carbery Rocks," in Cork (the *Carberiæ Rupes* of Swift,) where,

"Prone on the wave the rocky ruin drops,"

it affords prospects of land and ocean which admit of few parallels.

How high is the Irish coast?

More than one point of it has twice the elevation of the North Cape in Lapland, which is twelve hundred feet high, and usually considered the boldest headland in Europe.

Is the Irish coast, then, the highest belonging to that continent?

I am inclined to think, that of Norway, at the Lofoden Islands, is as elevated, if not more so, while the coasts of Scotland and Iceland are also important rivals.

I perceive from the map that the east of Ireland is not so rugged as the north and west.

Because the one is mainly a shore, and the other a coast. Leinster, however, has some bold headlands, for instance,

those of Bray and Wicklow, the Hill of Howth, and the coast of Killiney.

Suppose a high spring-tide were to come?

A high spring tide is always a deluge to the south and east of England, but it is seldom noticed in Ireland. It is an interesting fact — there are sixty feet between high and low water marks at Chepstow on the Severn, but only twenty-one feet at London. In Ireland astronomy was brought into ridicule, a few years ago, by a prophesy from the Royal Observatory, respecting an extraordinary spring tide, which was to inundate all the seaports on a certain day. The day came, and found the cellars and basement rooms of the Dublin and other custom houses, as well as private stores, quite cleared of everything perishable; but there was no flood in Ireland on this occasion, and the good citizens of Dublin laughed at the expense of the Royal Observatory. The next day, however, the London papers reported the sweeping over, by the predicted tide, of whole sheep-walks in Hampshire, to the great loss of property!

CHAPTER X. — THE BAYS AND "LOUGHS."

Looking on the map of Ireland I notice several salt-water inlets termed "loughs;" I thought "lough" in Ireland, as well as "loch" in Scotland, means lake?

So it does; and it is because some of those inland bays resemble lakes, being almost landlocked, that they are regarded as such and named as such. And for a similar reason many of the peninsulas are named islands.

Is not this feature peculiar to Irish nomenclature?

By no means. "Portland Isle" in Dorsetshire (South England) is no island at all; and "gulf," in the nomenclature of southern Europe, is frequently a misnomer of this description. Every language has little misnominal vagaries of this class, which would seem to proceed from a poetic taste.

By the by I can not see this word "gulf" on the map of Ireland.

It is seldom, if ever, applied in that country, though more than one of the deep inlets on the west coast might be very properly so named. Lough Strangford is a true gulf, but

Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly are too shallow to be so designated.

Describe some of these great inlets.

Bantry Bay is from five to seven miles wide and thirty miles long. This is one of the finest harbors belonging to the continent of Europe. The Bay of Kenmare River is still longer by ten miles. Clew Bay, so picturesquely studded with hundreds of islands, is twelve by seven, and endowed with charming scenery. Strangford Lough is seventeen miles by five, and similarly studded with islands, which occasion the whirlpool of Ballyculter at every half ebb. Lough Swilly is scarcely two miles in breadth, but twenty-five in its serpentine length. Lough Foyle is sixteen by nine, and has all the features of a salt-water lake with the additional romance of tides. Carlingford Lough admits the tide up to Newry, the third port in Ulster, and twenty miles from the Irish Sea. This and Dublin Bay have charming associations of nature and art; while other bays all round the coast spread, in superficies, from twenty to two hundred square miles each, those of Donegal, Galway, and Dingle approaching this latter figure.

CHAPTER XI. — THE HARBORS.

Is Ireland fortunate in its harbors?

Very much so. Few countries are so favorably circumstanced in this important respect. More than a dozen Irish harbors can float and accommodate the largest men-of-war, and those adapted to commerce may be counted by the score.

Am I to understand, that the harbors of Ireland are naturally complete, without the aid of art?

By no means; almost all harbors require the hand of art as well as that of nature; the latter gives them to us in the rough, and the former trims them to its own taste, by the building of piers and docks, the blasting of rocks, the clearing away of sand, the widening and deepening of beds, or the erection of light-houses.

Has all this been done for the Irish harbors?

Yes, to a greater or less degree, according to the means of each seaport and its commercial requirements, but much more in this way is badly required, all round the coast.

Are there no purely artificial harbors in Ireland?

Yes, that of Kingstown is a splendid sample of an artificial harbor, sheltering the smallest craft, and floating the largest man-of-war.

What kind of harbors have the great ports of Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and Limerick?

Dublin Bay owes little to art, while Dublin Harbor owes little to nature: the one is naturally complete, the other artificially so. But as the Bay is not narrow enough to serve as a harbor, and the Harbor not wide or deep enough to admit war-vessels, these formidable leviathans never come further up than Kingstown.

This, perhaps, explains the costly artificial works at this latter place?

So it does, Kingstown being only six or seven miles from the metropolis.

Now as to Cork?

Cork Harbor is naturally one of the finest belonging to Europe. The largest men-of-war can lie or manœuvre in the outer Harbor of Cove, and the largest merchantmen come up seven miles further to the inner Harbor at Patrick's Bridge; while the scenery for ten miles is fully equal to that of Piermont on the Hudson, which (I fancy) it very much resembles.

What kind of a harbor has the capital of the north?

A plain but very good one, as may be expected for a port of such commercial standing as Belfast. The Lagan meets Belfast Lough at this place, and is both wide and deep.

Is Limerick favorably situated for commerce?

Yes, especially with America. The Shannon spills into the sea the greatest volume of water of any river in the British Isles, not excepting the Tay, and is navigable nearly throughout the whole of its course. Limerick is thus fed by the towns and valley of the Upper Shannon for a hundred miles, while sixty more of a harbor avenue could accommodate all the merchantmen of Europe.

What else?

Waterford Haven, in which the sister rivers, Suir, Nore, and Barrow, disembogue, is another first-class commercial outlet, owing much to art, as well as nature; and nature invites art to "go and do likewise" in *seventy* other places round this favored island.

CHAPTER XII.— THE LAKES.

We have now traveled through the maratime counties, climbed the mountains, looked out from the great coast, and skiffed around the principal bays and harbors, let us, in the next place, proceed inland, and examine the other broad features of the country, to which you referred at the close of the fourth chapter,

With all my heart. Those other features, there spoken of, are lakes, peat-fields and rivers.

Are these prominent features of Ireland?

They are, more especially the two former: the "magic lake" and the "boggy syrtis" blending their "light and shade" in every quarter.

First, then, as to lakes: I should like to know their origin, their economy in the physical distribution, and how it happens that some countries have so many, while others have so few?

Lakes are produced by springs, by rivers, by rains; and that country which unites many springs, rivers, and much rain with an uneven surface has, as a general rule, many lakes. Lakes yield fish, feed canals, supply water-power for machinery, are always at hand for irrigation and drainage, and constitute a fascinating element of natural scenery.

Are not some lakes detached from the sea?

Yes, the freshwater haffs of Prussia, and the salt lagoons of southern France are of this class, having been detached by drifting sands.

What is the entire freshwater superficies of Ireland?

It is computed at about 630,000 acres, constituting the one-thirty-third part of the whole island.

How is this large quantity distributed?

Very unequally. Ulster and Connaught (the ancient Leagh Modha) containing more than twice as much as Munster and Leinster (the ancient Leagh Conn). The exact proportions are as follow:—

Ulster	214,956	acres.
Connaught	212,864	"
Munster	151,381	"
Leinster	51,624	"

I perceive by this, that the five counties of Connaught monopolize more than four times as much fresh water as the twelve counties of Leinster?

Very true; and stranger still, one county in that smallest of the provinces has nearly twice as much as all Leinster!

Pray which is that?

Galway. This county, besides a great many small lakes, contains about thirty navigable ones, the smallest being not less than a mile in length, while the largest has fifty miles of inland shore, and is much bigger than Lough Lomond, the must extensive in Great Britain.

I suspect, then, this county of Galway has very little dry land?

A very hasty conclusion! This is the largest county, but one, in Ireland, and has fifteen times as much land as water; while this water is the secret of those scenic attractions which tourists write so much about, when they have visited Connemara and the Irish Highlands.

CHAPTER XIII. — PARTICULAR LAKES.

I have read and heard a good deal about the Lakes of Killarney, where are they?

Killarney is the name of a small town in the south-west of Ireland and county of Kerry, adjacent to which are those celebrated Lakes.

What constitutes the peculiar in this region of scenery?

We shall come to the topic of scenery and the subject of Killarney by-and-by; at present, our object is more statistical than descriptive.

What, then, is the extent of the Lakes?

The triune lake of Killarney, anciently named Lough Lean, though larger than Windermere—the only respectable sheet of fresh water in England—is still but nine square miles; and, therefore, not to be compared, in size, with the great lakes of Ulster, Connaught, or Scotland.

What other lakes in Ireland are celebrated by the poet, the painter, or the tourist?

The very small lakes of Blarney and Gougane-Bara, in Cork; Glendalough, in Wicklow,

> "— that lake, whose gloomy shore
> Sky-lark never warbled o'er,
> Where the cliffs hang high and steep."

the Devil's Punch-Bowl and Carah, in Kerry; Gill in Sligo; Loughs Salt and Derg, in Donegal, with other small lakes in the west and north, and the great lakes of Neagh, Corrib and Erne.

What are these lakes remarkable for?

Chiefly, for scenic, romantic or historic associations: Blarney for no scenery whatever, but the funny traditions of a name, derived from the *palavering* old castle which stands on its bank and coaxes the tourist; Gougane-Bara, for a dreary loveliness, which has provoked one of the finest efforts of Callanan; Glendalough, for gloomy grandeur and Dead-Sea legends; the Punch Bowl, for the repulsive aspect of its dark Satanic scowl as it belches itself over the crags of Mangerton; Loughs Carah and Gill, for placid loveliness; Lough Salt, for its romantic altitude, great depth and pellucidity; Derg, for its pilgrimages; Neagh, for its well-known properties of petrifying; and Corrib and Erne, as exceptions to the general rule—that large lakes are unscenic.

Please express, in figures, the comparative extents of the principal Irish lakes?

Passing by all lakes under a thousand acres in extent, because the number of such in Ireland is almost countless, we find about forty which fully come up to that standard. Of these, the tripartite sheet of Carah is the most lovely and best known:—

Carah,	1,000	acres.
Derg, (Donegal,)	2,000	"
Gill,	2,000	"
Killarney	6,000	"
Allen	8,000	"
Conn (Mayo,)	13,000	"
Mask, (do.)	25,000	"
Ree, (Shannon,)	26,500	"

Derg, (Shannon,) – – – – – –	29,000	"
Erne, – – – – – – – –	37,000	"
Corrib, (Galway,) – – – – – –	43,000	"
"The Monarch Lake," – – – –	101,000	"

I perceive you have omitted here all fractions of a thousand?

Yes, for the sake of memory. The exact area of the Killarney Lakes, for instance, is, 6,231; and ofLough Neagh, 101,369, which includes Lough Beg (or Little Lough Neagh) a lake about half the size of the Kerry paragon, connected with the great lake by a channel similar to the Long Range at Lough Lean, or the straits at Enniskillen.

What place does Lough Neagh hold among the lakes of Europe?

In point of scenery little can be said of it; but, in point of size, it covers a greater superficies than the four largest lakes of Great Britain, and is the most extensive sheet of fresh water west of the Alps, and south of the Baltic. No lake in France or the Peninsula, in Holland or Belgium, in Prussia, Germany, or Denmark covers one hundred and fifty square miles, the area of Lough Neagh.

CHAPTER XIV.—BOG, OR PEAT.

I see, now, that Ireland holds a prominent place among the lake countries of the Continent; but what is its place in respect to that gloomy formation, known in England by the name "peat," and in Ireland by that of "bog?"

Decidedly, the first. I know no country in which peat occupies an eighth of the surface, but Ireland; and hence it is, that the word "bog" recals the idea of Ireland, just as the terms "sahara," "prairie," "steppe," "dyke," "paramera," recal the geographical peculiarities of Africa, America, Russia, Holland, and Spain, respectively.

Does not each of these features imply a natural drawback to the social progress of each of those territories?

In an agricultural sense, it does; and in every social sense, the barren steppes of Southern Russia, and the sand tides and deserts of the torrid zone, are inimical to animal

and vegetable existence; but prairies and bogs are removable, and have a commercial value not to be slighted.

Let me have a full conception of the commercial value of the latter.

Among other uses to which peat can be applied, the following are foremost:

1. — It is an excellent domestic fuel; not so calorific as coal, for certain manufactures, but far preferable to the latter for culinary, laundry, and other purposes requiring cleanliness, and moderate heat.

2. — It is a good manure, singly or in combination, for certain soils.

3. — It yields a brilliant gas-light, fully equal to that of the best bituminous coal, for lighting shops, mansions, and streets.

4. — It has antiseptic properties which render it useful for sanatory purposes, make it a good deoderiser, and retarder of decomposition.

5. — After yielding illuminating gas, it leaves a charcoal in the retort, which is of more commercial value at present than the original turf itself, from which that charcoal is generated.

6.—It yields paraffine for the making of candles, which rival the best wax in whiteness of material and brilliancy of light.

7.—Its tar can be turned into sealing wax, eliminating, after combustion, the highest polish and tenacity.

8.—"Bog-oak" bijouterie is a well-known branch of the practical Fine Arts, constituting a distinct department of the jewelry and fancy trinket trades. The oak, yew, and other jet-black, fine-grained timbers found in the bogs of Ireland have given rise to this beautiful business, which is now spread over the British Isles, and other countries.

I was not aware before, that bog-stuff could be turned to so many important ends.

It is only very recently that some of these applications of peat have been discovered. In the autumn of 1855, a young Irish genius startled the press and the public of that quarter, by lighting his establishment in Mary street, Dublin, with turf-gas.

What is his name?

R. L. Johnson, who has got all the credit of a discovery which must necessarily interest Ireland more than any other nation (badly circumstanced as Ireland is in respect to mineral fuel) by turning the only gloomy feature of that country into the most brilliant.

Is not Ireland dependent on England for coal?

In the present *statu quo* of commercial relations, it is. All the cities, towns and houses lighted by gas in Ireland, had to get that gas in some part of Britain, chiefly in the north of England. But now, "imagine an hour's light from a sod of turf, weighing only three quarters of a pound!"

Am I to understand that Ireland has no coal?

By no means. A very extensive coal formation spreads from the center of Leinster over the north and west of Munster to the Atlantic, the Kilkenny and Tipperary segments of which are well worked. But this coal is anthracite, yielding little or no smoke, and therefore no flammable gas.

Has Ireland, then, no bituminous or gas-generating coal?

Yes, at Coal Island, in Tyrone, and other places, which coal fields, however, are, in the present state of our knowledge, comparatively limited.

Has Mr. Johnson followed up his discovery?

He has by another discovery, or, rather, invention — a turf-gas distilling retort. He next took out a patent to secure his property in the new discoveries; and has now (1858) lighted, with Bog-of-Allan turf, a few country gentlemen's mansions, and the village of Street, in Westmeath.

CHAPTER XV. — PARTICULAR PEAT-FIELDS.

Is the peat formation of Ireland one vast bog, or several detached peat-fields?

The latter: every one of the thirty-two counties has more or less turf-soil; but six-sevenths of all the peat in Ireland lie between the two legs of an isosceles triangle, which has the county of Dublin, and about half of Wicklow for its apex, and the entire coast of Connaught for its base.

In other words?

Well, in other words, if a line be drawn from the Hill of Howth to Sligo, and another from Wicklow Head to the Port of Galway, they will embrace all the bog in Ireland, except a seventh part, which seventh part is scattered over the rest of the country, very much to its decided advantage.

Looking on the map for these points you have named, I perceive the two lines are not parallel, converging as they they do towards the east, and opening, so as to embrace all Connaught, on the west?

Precisely so; for the Leinster section of this great peat zone—popularly known as the Bog of Allan—is only about a third of the whole, leaving two-thirds to lie at the other side of the Shannon.

Connaught, then, must be very much encumbered with a comparatively unproductive surface?

So it is: here are the figures:—

Entire area of Connaught - - - -	4,392,043	acres.
Bog, lake and mountain - - - -	1,906,002	"
Remainder - - - - - - - -	2.486.041	"

I fancy this is a happy illustration of the absolute necessity of studying geography, for the proper understanding of history, and the better explanation of social relations?

It certainly explains the historical fact, that Connaught continued a kingdom up to the reign of Henry the Fourth. It accounts for the present primitive habits of its thin po pulation in the rural districts; explains a certain popular saying, which facetiously bids you go to Connaught or a certain other place; and, in a word, lies at the bottom of other social problems respecting this interesting, and otherwise beautiful territory.

Please let us now go into Ulster and Munster.

Antrim, in the former province, and Kerry, in the latter, monopolize a good deal of the northern and southern peat developments. The basin of Lough Neagh has a rim of about sixty thousand acres of turf-soil. Cavan county has no fewer

than ninety bogs. Tipperary, not a tithe of that number, yet nearly twice the quantity, covering about thirty thousand acres. One patch, in the jutland of Clare, occupies a somewhat smaller space; and other scattered patches in Desmond, amount, in the aggregate, to about half a million.

Please let me know your authority for all those figures.

I have taken them from a very elaborate survey of the bogs of Ireland, made some fifty years ago, by order of Parliament, when it was in contemplation to add, by drainage, one or two millions of virgin acres to the domain of the plough in Ireland.

Has that idea been realized?

No; but the magic wand of private industry has touched the mourning soil in a thousand places, and lo! all round the country, the golden corn waves where the black bog-hole yawned.

What is the origin of this strange formation?

Peat is decomposed vegetable matter, generally attributed to decayed forests. Ireland, though now comparatively destitute of native timber, was covered with woods so late as two centuries ago.

Then other countries ought to have bogs, as well as Ireland.

So they have. Bogs are plentiful in the north of this Continent, and in many of the States. Denmark has much bog. So has Germany. Russia has extensive peat-fields. Were the swamps of Hungary true bog, the peasantry there should have a better fuel than dung. One county in England (Lancashire,) has sixteen thousand acres of peat. In short, peat is more or less abundant all round the globe.

In a physiological point of view, what is the influence of this great peat development?

Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales), the ancient topographer of Ireland, says, that in his time (the 12th century) the Irish knew no sickness from the cradle to the grave, and, consequently, had no need of doctors. This is literally true of the rural districts at the present day. The fens of Lincolnshire, and other parts of England, are low, stagnant and unwholesome, but the Irish bogs are generally high, and never unhealthy.

CHAPTER XVI.—SPRINGS AND "HOLY-WELLS."

Having heretofore explained causes before you described effects, please let us preface our conversation on the rivers of Ireland, by an inquiry into their origin, and an explanation of the phenomenon—that the "myriad myriads" of streams, which have been pouring into the sea since the creation, do not cause the "abyss of waters" to overflow the land?

Rivers come from the sea and go to the sea, so the sea never receives one drop of water which has not come from the sea: that reservoir which gets only what it has given out, is always able to hold what it has held. Witness artificial fountains.

But rivers are fresh and the sea is salt?

This is merely the difference between filtration and solution. Clays are porous and rocks have fissures; and clays and rocks, which constitute the crust of the earth, act as natural filters through which the great pressure of the ocean forces the water, which loses its earthy and saline ingredients in the passage upwards.

How, then, does it happen that some springs are quite salt?

Just as it happens that some taste of iron, others of lead, and more of sulphur—on account of local causes which have their explanation in geology. Hence, our hot and cold, "soft" and "hard," chalybeate, sulphuric, and other medicinal springs, and "holy-wells."

What are holy-wells?

This is the general name in Ireland for springs which have curative properties; the peasantry there, being an instinctively religious people, refer all such properties to the Creator, and always accompany their visits to such places with prayers and other acts of grateful devotion.

Does no other religious element enter into this devotional feeling?

Yes; these holy-wells are frequently associated, geographically and historically, with ancient religious foundations, whose venerable ruins are mirrored in them by day, and cover them with their sacred shadows at night. Others are dedicated to saints, who, when on earth, guarded them from profanation, and were among the first to point out their virtues. All these

circumstances invest those fountains with a character which is appreciated to the fullest extent by a naturally devotional and simple-minded people.

Are there many such in the island?

It abounds with them. Every province, every county, almost every barony has its pre-eminent or special holy-well. Some counties have several; Down is one of these, so is Tipperary, and so Cork, Kerry, Mayo, Donegal, Fermanagh, and others. Noted wells are to be found near Enniskillen in Fermanagh; at Castlescreen, Armallan, Struel, Granshaw, and elsewhere in Down; at Fethard, Clonmel, Cashel, Doneskea, and other places in Tipperary; at Ball, in Mayo; at Ballyvourney, in Cork; at Aungier-Street and Portabello, in the Metropolis; at Chapel-Eyen, in Westmeath; at Holiwell, in Sligo—in short, all through the country.

Please divest them of their religious complexion, and then compare them, in a physical sense, with the fashionable resorts, of the same kind, in the south of England and on the continent?

The hot and cold springs of Mallow, the anti-scorbutic and anti-chronic spa at Clonmel, the powerful chalybeates of Dublin, Ballycastle, and Ballygrawly in Tyrone; the alum spring near Clough, in Down, and others on the west coast. The sulphuric waters of Ballynahinch and Ballyphelic in Cork; the celebrated worm-killing and detersive spa at Castle-Connell, the far-known Granshaw, "being equal in efficacy to the strongest of English spas," the four wonderful wells of Struel, characterized by English writers as "miraculous," and the famous Ballyspellan, so eulogized by Swift and Delany—all hold a respectable place among the most celebrated curative waters of Europe.

CHAPTER XVII.—RIVERS—THE SHANNON.

Where so many springs of one rare class exist, I suspect there must be a great many of the common kind, whence many rivers and rivulets are inevitable—please name the principal?

The Shannon, the Munster Blackwater, the Barrow, with its sisters the Nore and the Suir, the Lee, the Liffey, the Boyne, and the Leinster Blackwater, the Upper and Lower Bann, the Lagan, the Foyle, the Roe, the Erne, the Ulster Blackwater, the Main, and its neighbor, the Six-Mile-Water, the Slaney, the

Bandon, the Feale, the Fergus, the Maig, the Suck with the two Brosnas, the Inny and the Nenagh, (five tributaries of the Shannon,) the Gilly, the Moy, the Dodder, Kenmare River, and the poetic Avoca, with a net-work of feeders and less-noted streams.

What place does the Shannon hold among the British and European rivers?

Being an island-stream, of course, it can not be as long as the great ones of a continent, and the length of a river, generally, determines its breadth. The first European discoverers of the two Americas, at once pronounced them to be continents from merely beholding the vast mouths of their rivers, for the mouths of rivers tell plainly enough the distances they have traveled, and the contributions they have levied on the way. The Shannon, then, must not be compared in length, breadth, or depth with any of the great continental rivers, but of *island-streams*, it is one of the first on the globe.

Is it larger than the Severn, the Tay, or the Thames so highly eulogised by Denham, in his Cooper's Hill—

> "Though deep yet clear, though gentle yet not dull;
> Strong without rage, without o'erflowing full."

Denham was an Irish poet who praised the Thames, and Spenser was an English poet who praised

> "The mighty Shannon spreading like a sea."

The Severn is commonly regarded as the longest stream in the British Isles, by a few miles over the Thames, but the Scotch Tay has a larger volume than either; while the Shannon, on account of its great expansions, appears to comprehend, at any one time, as much fresh water as any two of them.

I see, by this map, that the Shannon rises in Lough Allen, county of Leitrim—is that correct?

No; it rises in the mountain-barony of Tullyhaw, county of Cavan, and instantly takes its place as an important stream. But it appears not more suddenly than it disappears, plunging down again into regions of gloom, whence it issues once more, (like the Guadiana, in Spain, and the Lesse, in Belgium,) after a short subterranean sojourn, and then hastens to take a bath in Lough Allen, which it enters at the north end, and leaves at the opposite, holding precisely the same relation to that expansion that it does to the others on its course.

Proceed; I like to see a little more of this fine stream.

At this point, it is seized upon to form a county, baronial, parochial, and townland boundary line, which it does for two hundred miles—its journey from Lough Allen to the "wide, wide sea." Pursuing a southerly course, to relieve Lough Key of its surplus, which it does near Carrick, it suddenly turns eastward to embrace its little sisters, the Rinn and the Camlin, leaving behind, as if memorials of the meeting, the little expansions of Loughs Bodarrig and Forbes. At this latter point, it assumes the higher function of a provincial rubicon, and, as if to mark the event, turns out of its way to make that forty-square-mile display of its capacity—Lough Ree! Here the Inny enters and falls down before it; several towns come to look at it, and three counties allow it to drag the sides out of them to make room for it. Moving stately onward through Athlone, it obligingly winds its way, now to the left and now to the right, as it turns to Leinster to relieve the two Brosnas, and to Connaught to be fed by the Suck. Thus recruited, it is prepared for a still greater display—the forty-five square miles of Lough Derg! This effort obliges it to rest, while receiving the compliments of Lough O'Grady, the Nenagh, and other dependents. It is now within ten miles of Limerick, and, impatient to enter its capital like a queen, dashes grandly forward to the "City of the Treaty," at a speed nearly *twenty* times as great as the average of that which it made before since it left Lough Allen! Thus it leaps into the arms of the tide which comes up to that city sixty miles to meet it, carrying it out in triumph through the sea-like Lough Fergus to the bosom of its mother, the

"Deep and dark-blue ocean."

CHAPTER XVIII—RIVERS OF THE SOUTH.

Which is the next river to the Shannon, in point of size?

The beautiful Blackwater.

But there are several of that name in Ireland?

Yes, but only one is understood as *the* Blackwater, claiming the determinating article on the grounds of size and beauty. This is the Irish Rhine.

Where does this river take its rise?

In the Kerry mountains, west of Castle-Island, and flowing almost due south, forms the boundary between Cork and Kerry for many miles. It then turns eastward and traverses the whole north of that largest of the counties, in the same easterly direction, receiving the Tarraglin, the Mill, the Aubawn, the Oundalo, the Allo, the Aubeg, the Funcheon, and several other streams, as it passes near the towns of Mill-street, Kanturk, Buttevant, Doneraile, Castletown-Roche, Kilworth, and right through Mallow and Fermoy; still eastward, it enters the county of Waterford, visiting the famous Lismore, and then turning, at almost a right angle, to the sea, is wedded by the Bride and beds in the spacious harbor of Youghal.

How many miles has it now traveled?

Very nearly as many as the Shannon—about two hundred, and its area covers about twelve hundred square miles.

What extent has the basin of the Shannon?

Near four times that figure.

Where are the other Blackwaters?

One joins the Boyne, (near Navan) which flows into the Irish Sea at Drogheda, where it is spanned by one of the most elevated and magnificent railway viaducts in the three kingdoms. The other Blackwater mentioned is in Tyrone, and forms the entire north-western boundary of the county Armagh, and about half the northern boundary of Monaghan. A fourth is in Wexford, and a fifth in Longford, but this last is a mere streamlet.

Which is the third largest river in Ireland?

Perhaps, the Barrow, which name implies boundary. At present, it is, in part, a boundary for six counties. In the time of the Pale, it was regarded for ages as the western limits of Hibernia-Anglicana; and still more remotely, it divided Hy-Kinsellagh from Mumhan.

Where does the Barrow rise?

In the east plateau of the Slieve Bloom mountains, winding a very circuitous course around the north and east of the Queen's county, passing by the important towns of Mountmellick, Portarlington, Monastereven, Athy, Carlow, Leighlinbridge, and New Ross, forming nearly the whole eastern boundary of Kilkenny, and swallowing up many streams, the principal of which are the Little Barrow, in the King's county, and the Burren, in Carlow.

By your calling the Suir and the Nore its sisters, I infer the three must meet somewhere?

They do: the Nore near New Ross, and the Suir below Waterford. Both are important rivers; the latter is navigable all the way to Clonmel, and the other united stream, up to New Ross.

What towns are situated on each of these rivers?

The Suir is specially the river of Tipperary, visiting nearly all the principal towns of that fine county, namely, Templemore, Thurles, Cashel, Golden, Cahir, Clonmel, and Carrick, and forming the entire southern boundary of Kilkenny, and about half that of Tipperary. The principal towns on the Nore, are Castletown, Abbeyleix, and Durrow, in the Queen's county, with Ballyragget, "the Marble City," and Thomastown, in Kilkenny.

Is it true, that these three important rivers spring out of the same well?

This is a common notion, arising, perhaps, from the fact, that the Nore, which holds a middle place between the other two, has a pair of arms which almost shake hands (so to speak) with its distant sisters, as they just tumble out of their cradles.

What is the extent of this treble basin?

About a third less than that of the Shannon, or three and a half thousand square miles.

CHAPTER XIX.—OTHER LEINSTER AND MUNSTER RIVERS.

I shall be satisfied with a visit to the three next most important rivers of Leinster?

These are the Liffey, the Boyne, and the Slaney.

Is not this Boyne the river upon whose banks was fought, on the 1st of July, 1690, that celebrated battle which decided the succession to the British Crown?

It is; and on this account its name is well-known to foreigners, better, it appears, than that of any other stream in the British Isles. But, *jam satis*—this is enough of history for the present; we shall come to the political and historical geography of the kingdom by-and-by, the natural has precedence.

Is this river, then, remarkable in any physical respect?

Not particularly so. It has many feeders, flows through a

very fertile country and a very unfertile tract—the Bog of Allan—is gemmed with many pieces of sweet scenery, and with its partner, the Blackwater, which comes to it from Lough Ramore, at Virginia in Cavan, has a water-shed little less circumscribed than that of the latter's great namesake.

Now, as to the Liffey?

The tortuous and pretty Anna Liffey rises in the Wicklow mountains and falls into Dublin Bay, which is distant from its source not quite a dozen miles; yet it has a course of seventy!—a beautiful instance of social economy, founded in nature.

What class of river is the Slaney, and where is it?

The Slaney is a fine stream, longer and larger than the Liffey, and, like the latter, coming down from the granite plateaus of Wicklow. It waters Stratford and Baltinglass in that county, Rathville and Tullow in Carlow, Newtownbarry, Enniscorthy and Wexford, in Wexford; and Gorey and Ferns are washed by its left arm, the Bann.

You have not yet told me what river has formed the great harbor of Cork?

The Lee, a wild, expansive stream of much volume, and the second river in Desmond, (South Munster.) It rises in the romantic Gougane Barra,

"Where Allua of songs rushes forth like an arrow,"

a small mountain-lake, in the west of Cork, and pursues a due easterly course, almost parallel with that of its bigger fellow-traveler to the north. It floods the low grounds on its course, forms many holmes and some small lakes, takes in the Sullane near Macroom, and like its great neighbor, embraces a Bride. After all these exploits, it forms a delta, and the second city in the island constitutes a little "Emerald Isle" in itself.

What extent of basin has the Lee?

Over seven hundred square miles.

Any thing further respecting the rivers of Munster and Leinster?

A great deal, if room and time permitted. There are twenty other good streams in Munster, and about as many more in Leinster. Of the former, the Bandon, in Cork, is perhaps the most important in point of size. The Flesk pours into the Lakes of Killarney, and the Loun out of them. The Feale and Main, and the beautiful Carah are also in Kerry. The Maig,

Deel and Abingdon are in Limerick. The Fergus, Dunbeg, Forsett and (a sixth) Blackwater flow in Clare, and the Clodagh, Mahon, Colligan and Licket belong to Waterford. Of this class Leinster owns the Fane, Glyde and Dee in Louth, the Nanny and Deel in Meath, the Frankford, Clodagh and Silver River in King's county, the Dromree in Kilkenny and the Vartry, Aubeg, Glen-Cree and Derry Water, in Wicklow.

I see, now, that these two provinces are well compensated for the comparative fewness of their lakes, as stated in a former chapter.

They are. Put ingenuity on the rack, and it can not conceive, all things considered, a better distribution of water than that of river. It is scarcely possible for a territory to have too many streams, they are the arteries and veins of the body national, for the absence of which no other natural gifts can compensate.

Are not some countries very deficient in this respect?

Yes, whole regions of the Torrid Zone, and whole districts of Russia and the Spanish Peninsula. Madrid, itself, is in the heart of one of those arid districts.

Is there any town or townland in Ireland without springs, a river, or a lake?

If such there be, I don't know it; but some places, where there is no river or lake, suffer *temporary* inconvenience, in very hot summers, by the drying up of the fountains. Cashel, in Tipperary, for instance, and other places, like the "City of Kings," not touched by any river.

Does much rain fall in Ireland?

The maximum. This island is considered the wettest country of Europe, and, if so, then of the Old World.

Can you convey a distinct idea of this?

Yes. Dr. Kane, the great industrial authority on Ireland, states it in specific figures. He says thirty-six inches of rain fall, one year with another, in that country.

What effect has this great fall of rain?

It makes the atmosphere gloomy more frequently than business or pleasure would like; but it is the secret of those innumerable springs, lakes, and rivers of which we have spoken, and to it must also be ascribed that perpetual verdure which has obtained for this fertile country the very appropriate and beautiful appellation of the "Emerald Isle."

CHAPTER XX.—RIVERS OF THE NORTH.

When speaking of the lakes, you matched Ulster and Connaught against Leinster and Munster, as having so much more fresh water than the latter: how far do the rivers of the former contribute to produce that preponderance?

As respects Connaught, to a very trifling degree; but the rivers of Ulster formed an important item in that calculation.

Which are the principal?

The Foyle, the Bann, and the Lagan. Of these, the last named is also the last in point of size, but the first in a commercial sense, being the Liffey of the North. It resembles the metropolitan river, also, in length and tortuosity; and its waters are peculiarly adapted to that flourishing manufacture which is spread along its course, and turns almost every rood of it to account. This is regarded as one of the first bleaching and industrial streams belonging to Europe.

Please to trace its course by means of the map.

Like the Bann, it rises in the mountains of Down, and attracted towards Lough Neagh by the inclined plane of that basin, it passes by Dromore and Moira, suddenly turning, at this latter place, towards the east, for the accommodation of Lisburn and Belfast, where it meets the Irish Sea, and carries out half the commerce of Ulster.

Is this, then, the seat of the linen manufacture in the north?

This branch of industry is spread over nearly all Ulster, but more especially over the three counties of Antrim, Down, and Armagh; perhaps, because it was here, upon the Lagan, which belongs to the two counties of Antrim and Down, that this business was first established in the north, about a hundred and fifty years ago. A shrewd Belgian, whom political troubles drove from his own country, and who was, probably, induced to settle down here by the peculiar adaptibility of this whole district for growing and bleaching flax, selected Lisburn, on the banks of the Lagan, for this purpose. Ever since, this locality has been the head-quarters of the linen manufacture in Ireland.

Anything particular about the two other rivers?

The Bann is also a good bleaching water, and, like the Erne, the Liffey, the Foyle, and others, is rich in salmon. It rises to the south of the Lagan, at a considerable elevation in the Mourne Mountains, and makes directly for the common level of Lough Neagh, which it enters at the south, after laving and leaving Banbridge and Portadown. This is the Upper Bann, which is separated from the Lower Bann by the twenty-two miles' length of that lake.

How high is the lake above the sea?

Only forty-eight feet; so the second Bann has a gentle flow favorable to navigation, at the same time that it is a good wide stream.

Looking on the map, I see now that vessels can come up into the heart of Ulster, and harbor in Lough Neagh — is that so?

While maps imply more than they directly assert, they also assert more than should be implied, and herein is the great distinction between geography and topography. A geographical map has led you into this mistake, which a topographical map would correct by pointing out a *local* obstruction near Colerain, which prohibits the full navigation of the river.

In what county does the Foyle take its rise?

It would be hard to say, as this is the most ramified river in the whole country. Three of its branches are considerable streams in themselves, and all have different names, some of which are quite local, so that the same stream has more than one designation. The name "Foyle" applies only to the trunk, commencing at the junction of the Finn and the Mourne. Tyrone, however, is the main water-shed of this, perhaps, the most extensive single river-basin in the Island, with one exception.

CHAPTER XXI.— OTHER NORTHERN RIVERS.

Which are the other principal streams of this quarter?

As already mentioned, the Blackwater in Tyrone, and that in Cavan; the Erne, Colebrook, and Cladagh, in Fermanagh; the Callen, in Armagh; the Newry Water and the several Whitewaters, in Down; the Finn, in Cavan, as well as that attached to the left side of the Foyle, in Donegal; the Roe,

which bounds through "Deer Parks," in Derry, and the Foughan, also in the same county; the Main, which is the chief of the local streams of Antrim, if the Lower Bann does not interdict it from that prerogative; the Bush, in the same county, which passes a rugged course through the brakes of Dunluce; the Derg, from gloomy Lough Derg, though rising in Donegal, belongs to Tyrone, as one of the many arms of the Strule: all which arms are baffled of their individualities in the Foyle.

Now, as to Connaught?

The Moy, in Mayo, is the only river of the west which can run a respectable race with the first-class streams of the other provinces.

What is the extent of its basin?

Rising in the bogs of Costello and setting in Killala Bay, it is the center of a slope covering one thousand square miles, or little less than that of the Boyne and its branches.

Are not the principal ports and inlets of that province formed by, or associated with, considerable streams.

They are not. The two principal ports of Connaught are Galway and Sligo, whose commercial and sanatory interests are well consulted by two lakes, respectively, Lough Corrib and Lough Gill. And though, as respects size, the latter is barely a twentieth part of the former, it sends out a stream which is both deep and wide, and constantly ploughed by steamers up to Dromahaire, in Leitrim.

Am I right this time in concluding, that vessels of burthen can come up from Sligo Bay to this last named place, and thus to within a few miles of Lough Allen, and the whole course of the Shannon?

No. Though the Gilly has a fall of only twenty-one feet from Dromahaire to Lowwater, in Sligo harbor, a distance of merely eight miles, or about two and a half feet per mile — a sufficiently gentle flow for navigation — yet, owing to a ledge of rocks which crosses and elevates the bed of the stream near the center of the town, producing violent rapids, all navigation at this point is at present impossible.

Why not blast these little impediments out of the way?

Because not yet sufficiently felt, and the requirements of commerce have not called for such a course. When this call

has gone forth, these "adamantine bars" will fly into "thin air," like those of the Barrow and the Shannon.

CHAPTER XXII.—THE ISLANDS.

Having now seen the broad features of the country, as catalogued in the last paragraph of the fourth chapter, it appears to me that the islands round the coast constitute another feature of this class.

Of the Irish islands, (which are generally small, the smallest being mere rocks,) Achill, Valentia, South Arran More, and Rathlin are the largest.

Where are these?

The last named is four or five miles from Fair Head, in Antrim, and the others are off the west coast.

What is the extent of the largest?

Achill, which has all the appearance of a fragment of Achill promontory, in Mayo, has a length of near a dozen miles, from east to west, and wants but little of measuring as much from north to south.

Has it, then, a superficies approaching the square of that number, as the data seem to imply?

It has not. This island consists of two promontories, meeting at nearly a right angle, and enclosing a spacious gulf, termed Tramore Bay, a name which is also applied to a fashionable watering-place in Waterford. These two promontories have an area of about thirty square miles, constituting the largest island off the Irish coast.

Is it, then, inhabited.

Certainly; but its population is thin, because the land is rocky and rough. Some parts, however, are verdant and productive; but the fisheries are the main reliance of its hardy inhabitants.

Any other peculiarity of this island?

It is separated from the mainland by dangerous rapids, has a mural and sublime coast, mountains and valleys, bays and harbors, lakes and rivulets. Slieve More, and Croghan Mountain exceed two thousand feet above the surges, commanding prospects wild and sublimating.

What of the other islands named?

Valentia, which also looks like a fragment of the coast—the clay-slate coast of Kerry—is an important little island, in an industrial sense, being very fertile, and abounding in excellent slate, which it exports to all parts of the British Isles. It forms a deep and safe harbor with the mainland, admitting vessels to sail round it either way.

What is the extent of Valentia?

It is near seven miles by two—about the size of Arran More.

Where is Arran More?

In Galway Bay; the largest of a group, as the name imports. But there is another of the same name, off the coast of Donegal, which is not quite so large. The former was once a place of some note, as its ecclesiastical and other ruins still testify. This is the spot from which Clanbrasail, or the "Enchanted Island," the imagined paradise of the ancient Celts, was supposed to be seen.

What grounds could there be for such a superstition?

Probably, ocular delusion; though it does not appear that such is connected with this island or district now. Ocular delusion of this kind is a fact known to all geographers; for instance, the deceptive mirzas of the Saharic wastes. Mariners, at sea, see ships in the air; and there is a mountain in Hungary, from the summit of which the spectator may behold an ærial giant, imitating all his actions.

What kind of an islet is Rathlin?

A dreary waste, though pretty sizable, and inhabited.

Is not this the spot of which we read in the life of Robert Bruce, the Scotch Washington, as that upon which he was thrown, in a moment of despair, and where he took a lesson in perseverance from a spider?

You are right—a lesson which taught him how to win a crown!

Please tell me a little more about this island.

In shape it resembles the human arm when bent into a right angle. The angle of Rathlin is named Church Bay, on the shore of which is the only fertile patch of any extent in this little territory—that same not exceeding a hundred acres, though the island is six miles long, by an average breadth of one, and contains exactly, according to the Ordinance Survey,

three thousand two hundred and six acres. It has no hills and no coast, and seems to be one sandy plain, whose highest point is not half a thousand feet. Yet it is regularly apportioned into twenty-one townlands. The ruins of Bruce's Castle, which stood at the convex or elbow of the island, facing Scotland, are in melancholy harmony with the general stillness and sterility.

CHAPTER XXIII.—OTHER ISLANDS.

Is not Cape Clear, so well known to Atlantic voyagers, an island?

It is. The Cape is one of a group at the entrance of Roaring Water Bay. It is high, rocky, and, in some parts, almost inaccessible. It has a length of three miles, and some cultivatable land in the northern extremity. This islet is regarded as the most southern point of Ireland.

I have heard of Spike Island as a penal settlement. Where is that?

It is one of a group in Cork harbor. Here are confined offenders against the laws, whose sentences of transportation have been commuted, for hard labor and restraint in this terrestrial purgatory.

Which is the largest of this group?

Great Island, an elevated and fertile spot, five miles long, by two to three in width, in which is situated the pretty little maratime town of Cove.

Is not this port now named Queen's Town?

It is, since the first visit of Queen Victoria to Cork. But this system of fastening upon places, for trivial reasons, inappropriate names, to the *displacement* of a native and beautifully significant nomenclature, has more than once received rebuke from men of letters and taste, and should be discountenanced by public usage, before that usage has given a sanction which can't be, though it should, be reversed. "Cove," for instance, means harbor—a highly appropriate designation for a port.

Which of all the Irish islands is the most distant?

Of those which are large enough to be inhabited, Tory,

off the coast of Donegal, is the most remote. This little colony is seven or eight miles from the mainland, which its few inhabitants seldom if ever visit. They live by fishing and a little tillage, speak the Irish language exclusively, and, like the Belgian whose native parish is his country, the Torian's natal nation is Tory. The coast of this little territory is cliffy and bold, presenting to the mariner at a distance the appearance of battlements and minarets.

Of the other islands, which are the principal?

Clare, Inisturk, Inisbofin, Great Blasket, Bear, Dursey, Whiddy, and Garromna, on the west, with Lambay, Copeland, and Ireland's Eye on the east. This last, however, is little better than a rock, as it presents a surface of only a few acres; but Lambay is fertile and picturesque, and so is the largest of the Copeland group, which belongs to Down. Whiddy, in Bantry Bay, is still more fertile. Dursey is almost inaccessible; and, for this reason, was one of the strongholds of the O'Driscolls. It is four miles long, but less remarkable for soil than climate. Bear Island, also in Bantry Bay, is a still larger and more important piece of territory, and in no way interrupts the navigation of that, perhaps the finest *natural* harbor of Europe.

CHAPTER XXIV.—MINOR PECULIARITIES.

Why, this island appears to possess, upon a small scale, all the broad features of a continent. But continents have other characteristics, as table lands, prairies, saharas, burning mountains, waterfalls, caves and caverns, geysers, and such strange developments; as yet, I have seen none of these in the Emerald Isle.

Nevertheless, they are all there, with the single exception of the *active* volcano; though Lough Salt Mountain, in Donegal, the Wicklow Sugar Loafs, and others, in Antrim, have all the appearance of extinct ones.

But, recollect, you said in a late conversation that Ireland is comparatively destitute of trees: how, then, can it have the prairie?

That remark applies to the general face of the country;

but Clare, Wicklow, Down, Derry, and one or two other counties, still retain patches of the ancient forests which once covered those districts, and which patches look the more venerable for their isolation. The wilderness near Clonmel, Walworth Desert, near the Foyle, in Derry, the forests of Castlewellan and Tullymore Park, in Down, the woody island labyrinths of Lough Erne and Killarney, the remnants of Shillelagh, in Wicklow, and the "deep dark woods" of Cratloe, in Clare are mostly all natural.

I have often heard the term, "Shillelagh;" does it not mean a stick.

Shillelagh is the name of a barony in Wicklow, whose oak forests once yielded the best timber in the British Isles, as would appear from the fact that Westminster Hall, London, is roofed with Shillelagh oak. The word is now a common noun, and applies to any kind of timber in the hand of an Irishman, for offence or defence, or walking.

It takes me very much by surprise to hear that you have got any touch of Saharic solitude in the Green Isle to which Collins' Oriental Eclogues could apply:—

> "Onward resistless rolls the infuriate surge,
> Clouds follow clouds, and mountains mountains urge;
> Wheeling in air, the winged islands fall,
> And one, great, sandy ocean covers all."

Yet, such is the fact; of course, upon a very diminutive scale, and always in the vicinity of the sea. Some years ago a strong wind, rushing in from the Irish Sea upon the shores of Down, disclosed masonry, and other remnants of human habitations, which had been long covered to a considerable depth by sand, and which the living inhabitants of the neighborhood knew nothing about before! The little Sahara of Rossepenna, near wild Horn Head, in Donegal, has covered a village, and all but the tops of some trees; and, still more strange, the old town of Bannow, on the boisterous coast of Wexford, is now *nowhere*, owing to the same cause, though it was a principal port of that county in the fourteenth century!

CHAPTER XXV.—SCENERY.

From what has been said I infer, that any country so highly varied as this, must possess the picturesque to no inconsiderable degree.

True; but the picturesque is only one order of scenery, that next above the tame, and must not be confounded with the wild, the beautiful, or the sublime. A territory may be too picturesque to be wild, and not sufficiently so to be beautiful; while it may excel in each of these attributes, and still want the lowest degree of the sublime. Then, again, a nation may range through all these orders of the interesting, and still be limited to one *class* of scenery, according as the mountain or the plain, the lake or the river, the maratime or the inland, constitutes the secret of attraction in each particular scene.

What order and what class of scenery prevail most in the Green Isle?

Let a late number of the London *Athenæum*, a first-class literary journal, answer:—"There is Antrim for coast for cliff and caves—Mayo for wild beauty—Killarney for enchantment—Kerry, generally, for mountains—and Connemara for everything—wild as Tartary, beautiful as the unoccupied world, ere the gate of Paradise was barred, and Death placed to ward it."

Is this the language of fact or of fancy?

Of both: the fact is neither accurate nor full, and the fancy impertinent. As an expression of feeling, however, it appears to be true to the impression which Irish scenery generally makes upon those who behold it for the first time. Ritchie's Tours in Europe, Mrs. Hall's Sketches, Brewer's Beauties, Fisher's Irish Scenery, Wyld's Blackwater and Boyne, and almost every review, magazine, and newspaper of standing in the British Isles, have dwelt with manifest enthusiasm on the mountain, lake, river, glen, and coast scenery of Ireland; while one English writer speaks of Irish sunsets as the most gorgeous he ever beheld.

I question, nevertheless, that there is any object of contemplation in the country of Moore to which his grand apostrophe to Mont Blanc could apply without exaggeration?

That must be granted. Ireland, in common with nearly all the islands on the globe, and, perhaps, nine-tenths of the continental globe itself, lacks the *high sublime*—an order of scenery which only those few territories can claim, whose mountain developments are not only on an Alpine scale but of the Alpine type, uniting the gigantic with the beautiful.

Please to name those counties in Ireland most celebrated for scenery and the curious in nature?

I merely express an individual opinion when I place them in the following order:—Antrim, Kerry, Wicklow, Cork, Galway, Fermanagh, Sligo, Donegal, Mayo, Tipperary, Cavan, and Derry.

What peculiar claim has each of these upon the tourist and the lover of nature?

The mysterious geological developments of Antrim amaze, puzzle, and delight. The contortions of mountain and lake, glen, cave, and cascade, constitute the claims of Kerry to the highest possible degree of that order of scenery termed, the beautiful, for which it is celebrated all the world over. The beautiful is also the prerogative of Wicklow, but its class or type is different from that of Kerry; streams taking the place of lakes, symmetry that of boldness in the mountains, and glens of charming associations being the prevailing feature. The peculiarity of Cork in this respect is a rivalry between its maratime and inland scenes in claiming and charming the epicure in natural beauty. Galway and Fermanagh have lake prospects which press hard upon those of Kerry in point of fascination. A sublime wildness of coast and mountain characterize Donegal and Mayo, also some very singular exhibitions of natural waywardness. Sligo has magnificently bold headlands, beautiful lakes, and a highly varied surface; and the other counties excel in the picturesque, each in a different way and in a different degree.

CHAPTER XXVI.—GIANTS' CAUSEWAY.

In a former conversation, you promised to describe that "miracle" on the north coast of Antrim, it is now time to hold you to that engagement.

Be it so. Fancy a mountain slope thickly wooded. Cut off the branches and let the trunks stand upright in all their bareness. Conceive them so close that you can barely see the light between, and so numerous as to be counted by the hundred-thousand or the million. Imagine next that every tree is jointed, that is, consisting of parts perched endways on each other, each part or joint fitting into the next with ball and socket, like the articulations of your fingers. By another exertion of creative fancy place them, so that every tree may have four, five, six or seven sides and be uniform in diameter from bottom to top. Now send a hurricane over the whole, so as to scatter a few into fragments and barely allow their bases or roots to appear above ground. And, lastly, whirl your magic wand and turn all this wood into the hardest rock. You have now the profile of that geological miracle, the Giants' Causeway.

How truly wonderful! And can this be the work of Nature?

Certainly; the whole interior of this county is strewn with the same kind of stone. It is of a dark color, close-grained and does not flake. Geologists call it "basalt," and class it with the volcanic rocks.

And does it take the shape of pillars everywhere?

No; it is found, generally, in an amorphous state, overspreading thousands of acres, like a coating of lava or melted lead.

What proof is there that those pillars have not been chiseled out of the shapeless basalt by the hand of man.

In the last century, a curious inquirer into nature subjected a quantity of the Antrim basalt to an enormous heat, sufficient to melt it, he then suddenly exposed it to the cold atmosphere, and we are confidently assured that it assumed the angular shape common to all crystals.

These pillars, then, are to be regarded as natural crystals?

They are; geologists entertaining no doubt whatever that they are the production of volcanic action, under circumstances analogous to those of the experiment just referred to. By a mysterious property in crystallization, the shapeless fluid invariably precipitates an angular solid; witness hailstones, icicles, stalactites, diamonds, as well as the artificial crystals.

But this explains only one part of the mystery; what say you to the ball-and-socket articulation, the strangest effect of all?

This effect appears to be, what in logic is termed an "accident." Expose newly made glass to the air before it is annealed, and it cracks into innumerable pieces. Some of the Antrim articulations are merely apparent, the severance not being through and through, so that in those instances the joints are one undivided solid in the centre—another proof of their accidental origin, unless we assume an objectless and, therefore, a foolish work of supererogation, and that of the most herculean nature, on the part of one generation to puzzle and deceive another.

I understand, now, that the Causeway is a coast sloping from the level of the sea to a considerable height, and consisting not of huge shapeless rocks or mural precipices, but of hundreds of thousands of natural pillars—which, I fancy, must look from a distance at sea like a mountain of cathedral organs piled one above another—mysteriously jointed and regularly chiseled with flat sides and straight-line angles, forming a promontory beautiful as wonderful, the parallel of which, as I learned on a former occasion, has not yet been discovered in any part of the world.

That is the main idea; but to have a precise conception of this truly sublime and deeply interesting object, you must see it with your own eyes and not with mine. From an elevation of nearly two hundred feet perpendicular, this grand colonnade diminishes as it nears the floor of the ocean, which covers no one knows how much more of it!

CHAPTER XXVII.—KILLARNEY.

I have, also, to remind you, that in our thirteenth dialogue you promised to bring me to that famous resort which I have seen characterised in Clarke's Wonders as "the most extraordinary" of fresh-water lakes. What constitutes the extraordinary here?

A grouping or concentration of every order, and class, and degree of scenery, from the tame to the sublime, as if the Spirit of Poesy flew round the globe and deposited here

the peculiarity of every beautiful scene she met on the earth.

You don't mean to say, that Killarney can have the beauty of Maggiore, the grandeur of Como, the sublimity of Geneva, the dash and roar of Niagara, the sweetness of Windermere, the wildness of Loch Lomond, the blending of the Rhine—can it have the maratime feature and still be inland, the river feature and still be a lake?

I have seen, (says the writer of Ritchie's European Tourist,) lakes which are larger and mountains which are higher than those of Kerry—I have seen places which cope with it in one respect, and a few which exceed it in another; but, after all, there is a *sameness* about every one of them—that which is wild is wild, and that which is sublime is nothing else; but at Killarney I have seen the features of the most celebrated scenes: the distinguishing prerogative of this place is *variety*.

Any other testimony in the same direction?

A great deal, and that from such judges as Scott and Wordsworth, whose own countries had such high claims on their predilections. The latter affirms this, "in point of scenery, the finest portion of the British Isles."

If possible, let me have a clear conception of that singular distribution of land and water, which constitutes the extraordinary here, and makes such impressions upon the mind.

The lakes of Killarney are three in number; for, though connected, they are very distinct; the "Upper," or most southern, being two or three miles from the nearest point of the two others, which lie close to each other, but are divided by the promontory of Mucrus and two islands. Though, strictly speaking, the three constitute but one body of water, yet they have not the same level, the southern sheet being more elevated than the two others. You are therefore prepared to hear, that the Upper Lake discharges its surplus into the "Middle" and "Lower," through those two or three miles of a rapid channel, and thus the river feature is beautifully developed in the "Long Range." This, again, compels you to expect that something supplies the Upper with, and relieves the Lower of, all the water which dashes through the Long Range. Each of the three lakes is fed by streams which come tumbling and grumbling from the surrounding mountains, and hence the numerous waterfalls. When you hear

that one of the many prerogatives of this favored spot is a wonderful echo, you need not be told that a single peal of thunder here is as a park of artillery, and that these mad falls keep the mountains at night constantly cursing.

Why not praying or sighing psalms?—But say, what are the peculiar features of each lake?

The Upper is between two and three miles in length, with a maximum breadth of about three-quarters of a mile. It is almost entirely imbosomed in mountains, which are lined with the finest woods in Munster. It is gemmed with small islets, and fed by many streams,—that from the Black Valley being the most important. The Middle, also called Torc Lake, from the romantic mountain of that name, which bounds it on the south, and sometimes Muerus Lake, from the fairy peninsula which forms it on the north, is a shade larger than the last. This is, also, richly robed with woods throughout its entire circuit of nine miles. It is into this spot the Devil's Punch Bowl tumbles, from Mangerton, forming the fine jump of Torc waterfall. By means of bridges a road is carried around this lake, from one island to another, and thence to the mainland, opening up all its charms. The lower sheet is more extensive than the two others and the Long Range put together. It is near six miles in length, and about half as wide. It receives several tributaries, the principal of which is the Flesk, and from this sheet also proceeds the only outlet of these lakes, named the Laune (or Loun.) Such are the prosy geographical facts, omitting all allusion to the lights and shades and blendings of natural poesy, which constitute this land of enchantment a materialized epic, whose idea is as true poetry as that of Lalla Rookh or the Fairy Queen.

CHAPTER XXVIII.—WICKLOW AND CORK.

Please to name and point out the other principal attractions of Ireland, in the way of natural scenery.

In Wicklow,—Glendalough, the Meeting of the Waters, Powerscourt, the Dargle, the Glen-of-the-Downs, Pool-a-Phooka, the Sugarloaf Mountains, the Scalp, Delgany, and other places of high beauty, but of less note; in Cork,—

Glengariff and the Cataract of Hungry Hill, the whole line of the Blackwater, Gougane Barra and the Lee, Glen Caum, the Coast of Carberry, Blarney, the Caves near Cork, and the sweet labyrinths of glen and water which escort with smiles the metropolitan railway into the capital of the south.

Enough for the present. I should like to know a little more about romantic Wicklow before going any further.

As a whole, Wicklow is, perhaps, the most picturesque of all the Irish counties. True, it has no scene to be compared with either of those just dwelt upon; but it exceeds Antrim and Kerry, nevertheless, in *sustained* beauty.

Allow me, then, to accompany you in a running description of its principal scenes.

The wild grandeur of gloomy Glendalough, like a deep gigantic amphitheatre scooped out of a mountain, the grave of so many holy ruins—the charming vale of Avoca, where the "bright waters meet," (namely, the purling Avon and the fairy Avoca,) sure

"There's not in this wide world a valley so sweet,"

the magnificent tumble of Powerscourt Cataract and the little less inferior jump of Pool-a-Phooka, whose repulsive dreariness and little whirlpool are referred to in its appropriate though infernal appellation — that splendid Glen, and more splendid Dargle, whose sides are mountains and tops are table-lands, where children play and look down on human "crows" below — those natural Pyramids, so much more picturesque than the artificial ones, to the eye of the mind as well as to that of the body, these crushing their makers into the earth, while those point up to their Architect in heaven — then, the deep contrast of the naked, rocky, terrible Scalp, where suspended quarries guard the mountain-gap, which you tremble to pass, lest they come, like the sword of Damocles, upon your own scalp. These are but a few of the many objects of interest in this delightful county.

Now, let us take a trip to Cork.

The largest of all the Irish shires is one big natural picture from Limerick to the sea. The great extent of this county, approaching near two millions of acres, or twenty-nine

hundred square miles, which is more than three times the size of Wicklow, is one cause of its not being so fully explored by tourists as the latter, whose vicinity to the metropolis is another circumstance in its favor.

What is Glengariff remarkable for?

This is a little lagoon at the extremity of Bantry Bay, of which it is an offshoot. It is completely land-locked, and has all the appearance of a lake, notwithstanding that the tide enters it, and of course its water is salt. The scenery all around this magnificent bay is very fine, being a combination of the wild and the picturesque, with a touch of the sublime. Independently of these associations, this gem of the ocean, Glengariff, is a wonder of loveliness. It occupies the center of a romantic glen, (whence its name,) encompassed by lofty mountains, one of which vomits down the highest waterfall in the British Isles. Thus, in winter, when the bay is boiling, and the cataract roaring, and the hills flinging out "their red banners of lightning," this babe of the Atlantic sleeps and smiles, the center-piece of the uproar! This single scene is not surpassed, if, indeed, it be equalled, by any other of its class in Ireland or Europe.

When you say the waterfall of Glengariff is higher than any other in the three kingdoms, are you aware of the exact height of the celebrated Scotch cataracts on the Fyers and the Clyde?

Neither of these is a single fall, like that of Adragol. The double fall of the Clyde is under two hundred feet; and the two grand jumps of the Fyers, as it plunges into Lough Ness, measure together two hundred and seventy-seven: but the *single* tumble of Adragol is more than double this in depth, coming, as it does, from a height of near eight hundred feet!

You have, then, in Ireland, the largest lake, the largest river and the highest waterfall in the United Kingdom?

Such appears to be the fact; and if there be, as I suspect is the case, no geyser or natural *jet d'eau* in Britain, jerking a pillar of water to a height of seventy feet in the open air, with a roar like thunder, then this is a fourth pre-eminence to which the waters of Ireland can lay claim, as compared with those of the sister island.

CHAPTER XXIX.—CAVES AND CAVERNS.

Have you any subterranean wonders in Ireland like our Mammoth Cave in Kentucky?

Several, and those of every size and shape; while a few are on scales so extensive, that they are not yet wholly explored, and so wonderful as to be almost indescribable.

Please to name and point out the principal?

The Irish caves may be classed into those which are found on the coast, and which are produced by the action of the ocean, and those which exist inland and are attributable to the porosity of limestone acted upon by obvious natural agencies.

As the latter appear to be prior in point of time, take them first.

Natural caves have been discovered in several parts of the county of Cork; they have been found, too, in Kilkenny, Kerry, Westmeath, Tyrone, Limerick, Down, Antrim, and, recently, on a gigantic and magnificent scale, in Tipperary. They are met with, also, in other counties; but these latter can not be compared with the great subterranean vaults of Cloyne, the Ovens, Dunmore, Ballybunion, and Mitchelstown.

Where are those places just named?

The city of Cork is surrounded by several very strange and even wonderful freaks of nature in this line. East of it, near Cloyne, are ones of startling strangeness and beauty, owing to the mysteriously artistic shapes assumed by their millions of stalactitic pendants and crystal incrustations, which so strikingly resemble ecclesiastical furniture. West of it, near the banks of the Bride, are "the Ovens," a subterranean labyrinth of magnitude and gloomy grandeur. Unlike the generality of limestone caverns, the Ovens display an evenness of side and ceiling which at first reminds one of the polished sides of a *trowel*. On the Blackwater and at Blarney are other natural caverns, all in the one county.

Where is Dunmore?

A few miles north of the city of Kilkenny. Here is a great cavern, known for ages, but not wholly explored yet. In it you proceed, at a depth of sixty feet from daylight,

for a quarter of a mile in one vast chamber, which is terminated by a river, beyond which who will venture?

Where is Ballybunion?

The "far-famed Caves of Ballybunion" are one of the many attractions of Kerry. They constitute one of the most interesting features of the great *cote de fer* of the West, and are not far from the mouth of the Shannon. The caves of Dunloe and Gurtnagloran are, also, in the same favored county, situated, respectively, near the rival scenes of Killarney and Caragh. "Cat's Hole," in Westmeath, and "Solomon's Porch," in Tyrone, are two other great caverns, which, with the former, deserve a more lengthened notice than can be afforded here.

Be kind enough to lay your finger on that point of the map representing Mitchelstown?

There it is, in the north-west of Cork; but the great caves whose agnomen this term is, belong to Tipperary. Though Ireland has an accepted history of two thousand years, these wonderful caves are a later discovery than those of Kentucky, whose first historian is yet living!—a pertinent illustration of the industrial history of Ireland since 1172.

Why not go further back than this significant date?

Because caves of *another* class, found recently in Kerry and Antrim, forbid it. In 1721 a coal mine was discovered at Ballycastle, on the north-east coast. In fifty years after, when the shafts were sunk deep and the mine extended under the bed of the sea, what was the surprise of the modern "discoverers" to find—an excavation "cut and dry," with pillars of coal supporting the roof, with the remains of tools, baskets, and all the evidences of a "cunning" industry, unknown to British history! And a similar discovery was made in Kerry, only a few years ago, while exploring a metallic mine.

Very strange indeed.

CHAPTER XXX.—MITCHELSTOWN CAVES.

If possible, let me have a clear conception of the new caves, respecting which you have excited my curiosity.

Discovered in May, 1833, by the accident of a limestone quarry, down through which, as if by magic, disappeared the crowbar out of the miner's hands, the opening, or adit, into this grand subterranean palace was thus made known. Going into it, you walk, in a stooped gait, down a gentle slope for about eleven yards. Here is a perpendicular precipice, fifteen feet deep, down which you descend by means of a ladder. Arrived at the bottom, a long passage, like a hall, carries you down its slope for about nine yards more, and then Byron's "perpendicular reptile" is at right angles, or nearly so, with the floor. Up to this, your course has been southward, with a slight inclination to the east; but soon you enter a more spacious hall, which turns nearly due east and carries you, in a perfect straight line, for about two hundred and forty feet more. The average height of this great avenue is twenty-seven feet, or about three times that of the former.

You have not said whether there be any stalagmites from the floor, or stalactites from the ceiling?

Because such do not exist here; these ornaments are for other places, which you will soon enter. Massive blocks of limestone are the only fixtures in either of those passages. You now enter one of the great caves. Its height is thirty-five feet from floor to sparry ceiling, and its length about one hundred and seventy. It is very regular in outline, one-half being a perfect rotundo, and the other a rectangle; the diameter of the former is ninety-five feet, and the breadth of the latter about half that.

Is this, then, the largest of these subterranean vaults?

It is not; two others are much more extensive, and half a dozen more interesting, from which branch off, in all directions, corridors, galleries and passages yet unexplored!

Is any order observable in these passages?

Yes, a surprising parallelism governs the whole; like lanes or alleys in American towns, those passages which are not parallel are at right angles, which makes them parallel to others.

Let us leave them, and return to the great cave just described.

Passing through the circular compartment of this great antechamber, twenty yards or so bring you into a gorgeous saloon,

nearly two hundred feet long, and not unlike the former in shape, but wider. Here are stalagmites and stalactites of surprising shapes and proportions; the former, like great Roman pillars, as if supporting the horizontal roof, and the others, like millions of wax tapers from the size of an icicle to that of a huge chandelier, whose weight brings it within a few inches of the floor, all waiting for a light to multiply it by reflection, according to their respective hues and capacities, to the display of a glorious scene. This magnificent "accident" is known as the "Four Courts."

Is this, then, the principal cave?

Perhaps it is, if we regard its extent and beauty together, though the "Garret Cave" exceeds it in the one respect, and falls little short of it in the other; while the "Kingston Gallery" is regarded by a scientific eye as "the most remarkable compartment of the entire excavation."

In what respect?

Singularity; it may be regarded as a cave within a cave, which terminate in a third cave, all constituting one cave of different elevations, from which branch off corridors into probably another labyrinth of caves yet unexplored! The "Gallery" is only seven feet wide, while it is one hundred and seventy-five long, perfectly straight, with Gothic arching, walls veneered with variegated spar, and partitions wainscoted with crystal drapery!

How long is the Garret Cave?

The longest of all — two hundred and fifty-five feet; getting wider and wider as you enter, from fifteen to fifty-five feet.

Have you arrived at these figures yourself?

I have not; they are those of Dr. Apjohn, from a very exact paper of his, published in the *Dublin Geological Journal*, immediately after the discovery of these great curiosities.

You spoke of half a dozen caverns just now, but you have described only four.

The "Bed-Chamber Cave" is so called from an angle of it, which strikingly reminds you of a bed with curtains. This fantastic, or rather artistic freak of nature is regarded as one of the greatest curiosities of its class. One magnificent sheet of calcareous spar, clear as glass, hangs suspended from the

ceiling, in ample and graceful folds, dyed and fringed as if to mock that great effort of ingenuity, the spinning-jenny.

What are the dimensions of this cavern ?

Ninety by forty-five, and is, therefore, the smallest of those described, but one of the most curious. It has some splendid stalagmites, and constitutes the link which connects the cavern first described with the last two. The "Long Cave" is the most southern of all, and is the centre from which branch off a great number of unexplored passages. Here, also, are some curious incrustations.

I think now I have a pretty fair conception of this great natural curiosity.

I doubt it; however, let me add, there are here some beautiful pools and streams, illuminated by their crystal bottoms, and besides the "bed chamber," an "organ," a "table," a "drum," a "pyramid," and other wonderful resemblances of well-known works of art. Mrs. Hall calls the whole thing "a natural marvel, the most singular in Great Britain, perhaps unsurpassed in the world; for such it is pronounced to be by those who have examined the leading marvels of the four quarters of the globe."

CHAPTER XXXI.—CURIOSITIES OF THE COAST.

Have you any cavern of the great coast, comparable to those you have just described, but not explained ?

The curiosities of this class, which have been produced by the action of the billows, are comparatively circumscribed; while the former seem endless, as if they are merely the antechambers of dormitories in which the hills of the earth once slept, ere the exterminating earthquake came of age. Frightful blocks of rock, weighing tons upon tons, found in every conceivable position, some strewed on the floor, some threatening from the walls, and others hanging by corners from the ceiling, as if they had been torn asunder by some convulsion of nature, are an invariable feature of the inland caverns of the globe. And as to those magnificent crystallizations, their explanation is perfectly illustrated by icicles; the principal material difference being, that these are water, while those are carbonate of lime.

Is it not also strange, that water could scoop caverns in hard rock?

If "constant dripping wears stones," the constant action of tides twice a day since God separated the dry land from the waters, with the battering-ram action of brumal storms, is a cause equal to any effect attributed to it. The Irish coast is a very legible chronicle of what has been done in this way in one locality since the year One. Sea-worn tunnels, gateways, avenues, chambers, large enough to float boats and pleasure parties, is one of the many romantic features of this coast, on every side. In the Mourne coast of Down is a natural cavern in a rock of *flint;* Portcoom Cave and Dunkerry Cavern, near the Giant's Causeway, are in marble basalt, and MacSwine's Gun, near Horn Head, in green granite!

What a strange name for a cavern!

The MacSwines (or MacSweenys) were an ancient sept who owned the north-west district of Donegal, in which the Gun thunders. It is so called from a singular and sublime effect produced by it in conjunction with the billows. The latter, which sweep with awful violence at this exposed corner, tumble into the cavern, and bursting through an aperture in the top which they have also augured, shoot a pillar of salt water into the air to a height varying from forty to seventy feet, by a thicknsss of six, making the welkin ring like artillery, for ten miles all around!

This, I presume, is that curiosity alluded to in the last answer of our twenty-eighth dialogue?

It is; but this is not the only natural *jet d'eau* in Ireland. The Puffing Hole, near Miltown, in Clare, is such another; it is heard at a considerable distance, grumbling like a latent volcano, even when there is no visible action from it. And a third is to be met with at Killough, on the coast of Down. Thus the romance of Icelandic geysers, without their danger, is beautifully provided for the Irish landscape.

Which is the largest of the coast caverns?

Perhaps that near Cahirciveen. Here about are several curious caverns in "the iron rocks" of Kerry; but one, which is so low at the entrance as barely to admit you at high water, if you sail into it standing up, will accommodate all your rigging and canvas inside. Here is an astonishing echo.

I recollect you identified the rocks of Kerry as clayslate, at a former sitting.

Cote de fer ["coast of iron"] is a complimentary appellation commonly applied to bold coasts. But the term is literally appropriate to many bold headlands in this and other counties. In the barony of Iraghticonnor, near Dune Castle, on the Kerry coast, are iron pyrites which are liable to spontaneous combustion, if indeed there be literally such an effect in nature. Towards the close of the last century this rock took fire and attracted much notice; some taking the novel exhibition for the monition of an approaching volcano! But Ireland, with all its striking evidences of by-gone volcanic convulsion, is one of the safest countries on the globe in this respect, and has been within authentic history.

Is Irish history entirely silent on this point?

By no means. In May, 1778, an unmistakable volcanic crash surprised that suspicious region, the north coast of Antrim! Near Ballycastle, at Knocklayde, a sudden and violent eruption of smoke, fire and ashes burst forth at the date mentioned, which ascended to the height of a steeple, strewing the ground around the hill, for a quarter of a mile, with stones and cinders. "In forty-six minutes after the first shock, a stream of lava was poured out and rushed in a sheet of liquid fire, about sixty yards in breadth, down the fields, until it entered the adjoining village of Ballyowen, where it involved the houses and their unfortunate inhabitants in one conflagrate ruin, none having escaped but one man, his wife and two children!!"

How long did this continue?

We are told for thirty-nine hours, and then totally ceased!

CHAPTER XXXII.—OTHER MARATIME SCENES.

How I should like to take the tour of this romantic coast!

If ever you do, be sure to visit the Amphitheatre and the Cliffs of Mohar, in Clare—Connemara and the Twelve Pins, in Galway — Clew Bay, Croagh Patrick and Achill, in Mayo — Knocknaree, in Sligo — Slieve League, Horn Head and Lough Swilly, in Donegal — Glenarm, Glenariff, in short, the whole

coast of Antrim; not forgetting, for your life, Doon Point, in Rathlin — Armer's Hole, Loughstrangford and Rostrevor, in Down — Dublin Bay, the Hill of Howth and Killiney — Carnsore Point, in Wexford—the outer and inner Harbor of Cork; in a word, the whole circuit of cliff and strand, bay and harbor, island and islet, from this to the Shannon mouth.

What is the "Amphitheatre," which causes it to be so named?

It is a circular or horse-shoe indentation in the coast, not far from the Puffing Hole, where tiers of shelving rocks, like seats at a theatre, or the Giants' Stairs near Cove, rise over each other with very noticeable regularity. In itself this object is very interesting, but when the wind is high and the sea rough, the waves come jumping from ledge to ledge, to descend the next moment in so many charming cascades — the "horse-shoe" Niagara in miniature.

What is Armer's Hole, and why so named?

It is a natural arch through a ledge of rock, like a huge gateway, through which the surges play "thread the needle." It is a place fit for dark deeds, such as that which has given it the present name; for here, a hundred and fifty-seven years ago, a man of this name was murdered by his own son.

What are the Twelve Pins?

Twelve isolated mountains lying pretty regularly, like a row of pins in a cushion. Binabola, the highest, has an elevation of 2396 feet. The district south of these, between Lough Corrib and the ocean, is the wildly beautiful territory of Connemara—the "country of MacNamara."

I understood you to say, when speaking of the islands, that Rathlin is not remarkable for scenery?

A serious omission was then made, in forgetting one corner of this bleak and otherwise unimportant spot. A phenomenon very similar to that of the Giants' Causeway, and Fingall's Cave in Staffa, is to be witnessed at Doon Point, in Rathlin. There the Basaltic pillars have this peculiarity — they are not only perpendicular, but, also, horizontal and sloping, forming graceful curves as they lie into the slope of the "Point." This variety of position attaches an interest to this scene which is all its own. Basaltic pillars are found also at Magelligan Point, in Derry, another part of the same igneous region.

What are the other places remarkable for?

For scenery, in the landscape acceptation of the term. Speaking of the prospect from the conical summit of Croagh Patrick, which overlooks the island-studded Clew Bay, an American lady, Mrs. Nicholson, writes: "The first sight was so picturesque and dazzling, I supposed my eyes were deceiving me, that the almost supernatural exertion [of climbing that vertical hill, 2528 feet over the Bay] had dimmed the true vision and false images were flitting before me." Of Sligo Bay she says: "Nothing but the Blackwater could equal it, and that could not boast such picturesque mountains. Here are mountains of rock, standing out in circular shape with the appearance of pillars, as if hewn by an architect; others like a box, with a cover shut over it, and the edges of this cover plaited. This singular appearance of rock and mountain continued for several miles." What an English writer says of a sunset in Kerry, she endorses when speaking of Connemara—"such a sun-setting and such a twilight by sea or by land I never beheld."

What does she say of Dublin Bay and Cork Harbor?

She repeats the words of another: "I have travelled much, but have never found anything surpassing the Bay of Dublin and the Cove of Cork." Yet, unsurpassed as these places are in point of beauty, it is a question to be decided: that if divested of all that art has done to heighten the effect of nature there, would the Cove of Cork or the Bay of Dublin *then* surpass charming Rostrevor, wild Lough Swilly, lovely Glenarm, romantic Crook Haven, or any one of a dozen other maratime prospects around the coast?

CHAPTER XXXIII.—OTHER INLAND SCENES.

As I hope not to die till I have made the tour of this region of scenery, let me trouble you, for the last time, to point me out its other objects of interest in this line?

Remember, we are not yet done with Nature, and can not, therefore, refer at present to a class of scenery in which the country abounds, and in which a Lhuyd would live fasting. Scott spent but one day at Killarney, while he passed two at Cashel!

Well, then, of *natural* objects what remains?

Many magnificent mountain passes, gloomy glens, pretty rivers and pretty lakes. The great pass of Barnesmore, which is the subject of more than one English romance, is in Donegal; the celebrated Gap of Donloe is sufficiently known, when named, as the gloomy antithesis of all that is sunny at Killarney; the wild, rocky Pass of Cooleagh, near Bantry, another Scalp, two miles long; the bloody Pass of the Plumes, in Queen's County, so called because of a great slaughter of English here, by O'Moore, when the place was strewn with their hats and cockades; the superb Glen of Agherlow, in Tipperary, ever smiling, though hemmed in for eight miles by two rugged mountains—the Galtees and Slieve-na-muck—the former rising almost vertically to the height of three thousand feet. This single scene of naked mountain and natural wood and purling streams and tasteful seats, is a compensation for a day's journey.

What kind of scenery is that of the Shannon?

Magnificent; few rivers have such a rise, and such a fall, and such intermediate associations. In this respect it is approached, in Ireland, by only the Lee.

You left me under the impression that the Blackwater is the most beautiful river in the island, when you styled it the "Irish Rhine." Is there no contradiction here?

I am now speaking of only the rise and fall of rivers, and the rise and fall of the Shannon and of the Lee are truly fine, admitting few parallels. The Blackwater's pre-eminence consists in a happy union of nature and art along its *course*, more particularly during its passage through the county of Waterford. Here baronial palaces, gray ruins and well-wooded domains relieve the natural undulations of the varied landscape with an effect which has thrilled every beholder endowed with a particle of natural or acquired refinement.

What does Mrs. Nicholson say of this?

"When passing through the Vale of Ovoca I thought that Nature could do no more than she had there done; but, on the banks of the Blackwater she showed me that a bolder stroke of her pencil had been reserved for this outline. Let the traveller gaze upon the picture and say, if he can, what is wanting."

But let us return to the Shannon.

Immediately above Limerick, the Rapids, the Woods of Cratloe, the mountains of Arra and Clare, and the broad bosom of Lough Derg, all converging at the one spot, the town of Killaloe, is a scene which has been matched by Mrs. Hall, and others, against any in Kerry. Further up, the scenery is less magnificent, but still very fine till we come to Lough Allen, where it takes its highest jump, if we except the one prospect just referred to. Larger than any lake in Kerry, and imbosomed in mountains, Lough Allen wants little of being a paragon.

What other rivers of Ireland have claims on the tourist?

In an eminent degree, the Roe, the Foyle, with more than one of its arms, the Slaney, and the Anna Liffey. But to name every stream in Ireland interwoven with beautiful landscapes, would be almost the full repetition of a catalogue already given in the seventeenth and succeeding chapters. It may be remarked, however, that owing to the peculiar geological development of Antrim, the number of streams pelted over precipices in that county dashes a spray of animation and romance over so large a portion of it as to constitute quite a peculiarity. Nor must we omit Spenser's celebrated Mullagh, near which he wrote and sang and slandered.

Where is the Mullagh?

The name is thought to be one of his own imposing, and, consequently, there is some difference of opinion as to the identical stream so often praised in his writings. Some think it to be the Avondhuv, or Blackwater, near which his Castle of Kilcolman, adjacent to Buttevant, was situated; while others contend it is the Aubeg, a winding stream which is still nearer to the castle, and which falls into the other river between Mallow and Fermoy.

CHAPTER XXXIV.—PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

The paramount topic of a nation's industrial resources, may be said to be the back and front of all geography. I wish now to look at Ireland from this point of view.

Without asking a question, you can go far to inform yourself

by a glance at the map. At a glance you see the latitude of Ireland; and its first parallel, 51° 19', whispers — no grapes, no tea or coffee or cocoa, no lemons, no oranges, no spices, no cotton, no sugar-cane, no tomatos or melons, no mulberry and no silk-worm — but, also, no tiger, or rattlesnake, or crocodile, or mosquito, or prickly itch, or sun-stroke.

What is the other parallel?

55° 23'; and, therefore, no whalebone, or sealskin, or walrus-ivory, or bristles, or white-bear hair — but, also, no nights three months long, no rocks for blankets, no "blue-cold nose and wrinkled brow," no "stunted juniper," and no death by frost-bite.

But do not these figures give me affirmative, as well as negative ideas of production?

Most certainly; they spell "temperate zone," "gnarled oak," "region of wheat," and "hardy vegetation," with all their concomitants.

But there is nothing specially Hibernian in all these implications, which belong to Great Britain and many other countries?

Very true; but in education, the general should precede the particular; before laying the corner-stone we must clear away the rubbish and chalk out the foundations. This, so to speak, is now done, and done by the map. Let us see, next, what else it can tell us in the way of production. We have a little over five degrees for the *geographical* length of the nation, and a little beyond four for the geographical breadth between the Islets of Down and the Blaskets, and beyond these limits Ireland can not claim credit for one inch of earth, air or water. Here, now, is our first special idea respecting the maximum capacity of this country. Looking again at the map, you see, at a glance, the proportion of this superficies occupied by arms of the sea; and this brings us to the *practical* dimensions of the island. These dimensions are further reduced when we see and allow for mountain wastes, which the map also shows. The map also points out other deductions, and thus we get at the *bona fide* productive area of the country, respecting whose mineral and vegetable resources that document is silent; and now we must go elsewhere.

You seem to ignore the animal resources of countries?

The vegetable world is always the measure of the animal. Iceland has little or no vegetation—the precise measure of its "handful" of people, who would fit in Limerick or Waterford, though that island is as large as Ireland. The rock which can't grow a loaf of bread, or a head of cabbage, how can it grow the mouth to eat it?

Upon this principle, the area and population of a territory given, is the problem of its vegetable productiveness solved?

In a great measure. We know little of China, beyond the fact that it swarms with human beings; we require no more to inform us that here is a region bursting with fertility. Belgium, in like manner, having, in proportion to its extent, the largest population in Europe, must needs be second to no European country in fertility.

Let us apply this yard-measure to the soil of Ireland.

If we do, we must include a population which is not within the limits of the island. For the exports of that country being chiefly agricultural, go to support another population besides its own. Immediately before the famine in 1846, the resident population of Ireland, exclusive of all emigration, exceeded eight millions. If we set down the agricultural exports as representing eight millions more, [for certainly the home-consumption of Irish provisions is less than the foreign] and then take into account the three millions of waste, but redeemable lands, and what might be done with a better system of tillage, and encouraging land-laws, we shall not be surprised at the deductions of social economists who affirm, that Ireland is capable of supporting, in comfort, "*from twenty to thirty millions of people.*"

CHAPTER XXXV.—AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

By taking the civil divisions of the country separately, and seeing their respective extents, as regards arable and waste lands, you will take the shortest method of giving me clear ideas, at the outset, of the industrial resources of Ireland.

Yes, and a few carefully digested tables of figures, taken from reliable sources, such as the exact surveys instituted from time to time by government, have the additional advantage of serving for future reference.

Well, then, how much arable and waste land in each of the four provinces?

As follows: —

ARABLE.			WASTE.	
Leinster, ...	3,961,188 Acres.		Connaught, . . .	1,906,002 Acres.
Munster, ...	3,874,613 "		Munster, ...	1,893,477 "
Ulster, ...	3,407,539 "		Ulster, ...	1,764,370 "
Connaught, . . .	2,220,960 "		Leinster, ...	731,836 "
Total, . . .	13,464,300		. . . . .	6,295,685

Are these six millions of acres wholly unproductive?

Far from it. They consist chiefly of mountain and bog, of which only the naked rock and the deep bog hole are wholly useless. They include the granite hills of Dalkey and Wicklow, out of which have been reared those magnificent structures, the public buildings of the metropolis. They include the millstone grit of Brahlieve and other mountains, which is largely exported to England. They include the extensive copper and lead mines of Knockmahon, in Waterford, and the metalliferous hills of Lough Allen, pregnant with iron and copper. They include Slievebeagh in Fermanagh, where geologic theory and theorists insist there *must* be a coal mine, though yet undiscovered. They comprehend the crystals on the top of Knocknaree and the Diamond Mountain, and the rich iron-stone of Cuilcagh, from whose summit of two thousand feet British factories have got some of their best millstones. Heath for besoms and brooms, brushwood for fuel, and extensive vintages of wild "hurts" are yielded by the mountain proportion of those six millions of acres. Several miles of Slievenamuck and other mountains in Tipperary supply Liverpool wine merchants with that excellent berry whose juice is returned to the Irish gentry for Burgundy and port! And not only to these, who have been always epicures and judges in this respect, but also to the middle classes of Britain.

Do not those hills in like manner grow forests, and yield turf?

The latter in abundance, and the former abundantly in times gone by, while some of them make good sheep-walks, and admit of cultivation to an almost incredible height; the green oasis up a thousand feet, attracting the eye at a distance of several miles. As a remarkable instance of this, behold the settlement of Mount Mellary, up in the mountains of Waterford!

Instead, then, of denominating as "waste" those six millions of acres, I should prefer to know the full area of each county, marking its per-centage of *arable* land.

The following data are taken from the Poor-rate Valuation, which is the standard by which the country is taxed for the relief of the destitute. The Ordinance Survey gives other figures, which are somewhat less. It will be noticed that I have arranged the table so as to show the comparative size of each county at a look, the largest being first and the smallest last:

FULL AREA OF EACH COUNTY.

COUNTIES.	ACRES.	COUNTIES.	ACRES.	COUNTIES.	ACRES.
Cork	1,846,333	Roscommon	607,691	West Meath	453,468
Galway	1,566,354	Meath	579,899	Queen's County	424,854
Mayo	1,363,882	Wexford	576,588	Kildare	418,436
Donegal	1,193,443	Derry	518,595	Leitrim	392,363
Kerry	1,186,126	Kilkenny	509,732	Armagh	328,176
Tipp'y	1,061,731	Wicklow	500,178	Monaghan	319,757
Clare	827,994	King's County	493,985	Longford	269,409
Tyrone	806,640	Cavan	477,360	Dublin	226,414
Antrim	745,187	Sligo	461,753	Carlow	221,342
Limerick	680,842	Waterford	461,553	Louth	201,434
Down	612,492	Fermanagh	457,195		

I will now thank you for a similar table, showing how much of each county is fit for the plough, placing that first which is most so, and that last which is least.

That county which is most so, is Meath, and that which is least so, Donegal; more than ninety-four per cent. of the former being arable, and barely thirty-three of the latter.

COUNTY PER CENTAGE OF ARABLE LAND.

Meath	94.3*	W. Meath	80.5	Fermanagh	63.2
Kilkenny	92.2	Tipperary	79.4	Sligo	62.9
Monaghan	89.4	Cavan	78.6	Derry	61.3
Louth	88.8	Limerick	77.8	Wicklow	56.1
Wexford	88.5	Roscommon	72.4	Tyrone	55.9
Dublin	86.6	Longford	71.2	Clare	54.9
Kildare	85.2	Waterford	70.5	Galway	47.4
Down	84 0	Cork	70.9	Mayo	36.4
Carlow	83.1	King's County	68.2	Kerry	35.0
Armagh	80.8	Antrim	67 5	Donegal	32.9
Queen's County	80.5	Leitrim	63.5		

* This mode of expressing quantities is certainly familiar to many subscribers to this publication, but, as certainly, it is not to many others, who will not be offended at the utmost explicitness, but will rather expect it and take it as a favor. Let us explain, then, that 94.3 is the same expression as 94 3-10 meaning, in the present case, that if the county of Meath were apportioned into one hundred equal parts, ninety-four of those parts, and a little bit, would be fit for tillage. The *little bit* is precisely three-tenths of another part, which (if we must further explain) means the subdivisions of this other part into tenths, and three of them taken.

I see by this that there are four counties in Ireland, (and by the preceding table that they are four of the largest,) the one-half of which, singly or collectively, can not be tilled?

Very true; but it must be remembered that the spirit of progress has been tampering with those data since they were made out, and is still. I might, indeed, without having taken any unwarranted liberty with truth, have omitted every one of these decimals and added a round diget to each whole number.

The next obvious inquiry now is—may not a country have a large per centage of arable land and that arable land to be poor land?

McCullagh, in his Geographical Dictionary, has answered this question as follows: "Ireland has no stiff clay soils, such as those of Essex, Hants, Oxford, etc., nor any chalk soil, as those of Hertford, Wilts and Sussex. Sandy soils are also rare. Loam, resting on a sub-stratum of limestone, predominates in Ireland, and, though often shallow, it is almost everywhere very fertile. A large part of Limerick, Tipperary, Roscommon, Meath and Longford, consist of deep, fine, friable loam, and is, perhaps, not surpassed by any land in Europe. It is not permanently injured by the bad system of culture to which it is subjected, and, if kept clean, will yield an almost interminable series of corn crops; and, how bad soever the order in which it is laid down to grass, it is in no long time covered with the finest pasture. The deep, rich grazing lands on the banks of the Shannon and Fergus are not surpassed by the best in Lincolnshire, [England.] A good judge of such matters, Arthur Young, contends that, acre for acre, the soil of Ireland is superior to that of England; though, as the proportion of waste land in the former is much greater than in the latter country, we incline to think this an exaggerated statement. But, had Mr. Young confined his remark to the cultivatable land in both countries, it would have been quite correct. In fact, if we deduct the bogs and mountains, we believe that Ireland is about the richest country, in respect of soil, in Europe. As a grazing country, she is probably superior to any other, and, certainly, is surpassed by none."

CHAPTER XXXVI.—ANNUAL VALUE OF REAL ESTATE.

What else is essential to a thorough knowledge of the industrial resources of Ireland?

The same that is required to know any other country in a similar way—its flora, its fauna, its mineral productions, its native exports, and its collective *annual* wealth.

What do you mean by the flora and fauna of a territory?

These are natural-history terms, applied, respectively, to the vegetable and animal productions of countries, and are to botany and zoology what topography is to geography.

How can the annual wealth of a nation be ascertained?

By its rental, the surveying of crops, the census of its great annual fairs, its home consumption, and its exports.

Is the precise rental of Ireland known?

It is not. A few thousand proprietors hold all the land of Ireland, and are restrained by no law from charging any rents they please. Data, however, are not wanting, from which social philosophers have made calculations on this head. About the close of last century, the rental of Ireland was computed at *twelve millions of pounds sterling.* Wakefield sets it down at seventeen millions, English money, in the year 1812; and Mr. Smyth, in his "*Ireland, Statistical and Historical,*" is more precise, when he states the present rental of Ireland at £21,394,675, or about *one hundred millions* of American money, annually!

In what way, and to what extent does rent represent annual wealth?

If of *land*, it may represent one-half, one-third, one-fourth, one-fifth, or some other fraction of the annual produce of that land. On the estates of Lord Mount Cashel, for instance, the annual produce of the soil is supposed to be four times the value of the rent—the proprietor claiming one-fourth, and recognising to the producer, or tenant, three-fourths. But in Ireland this is a theory of rare application, if, indeed, it be not applied the other way—the *one* being more like the tenant's share than is the *three.* McCullagh accounts for the great exportations of live stock, in particular of pigs, from Ireland, by saying that it is owing to "the anxiety of the peasantry to

pay their rent, though at the *expense of their comforts*"—a statement which admits of no dispute.

Does not the Ordnance Survey, or the Poor-Rate Valuation inform us respecting the annual worth of real estate in Ireland?

Mr. Griffiths is the greatest individual authority on this point; but consistency compels us to follow the valuation under the Poor-Law, which is as follows:—

ANNUAL VALUE OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Antrim	£1,314,775	Kerry	351,466	Donegal	282,000
Cork	1,288,828	Derry	331,863	Armagh	263,579
Dublin	1,219,528	Louth	327,867	Monaghan	262,035
Tipperary	867,678	Kilkenny	327,733	Cavan	260,175
Limerick	647,822	Mayo	326,461	Longford	226,870
Down	581,815	Wicklow	314,578	Fermanagh	180,181
Meath	537,870	West Meath	300,925	Carlow	173,930
Galway	511,840	King's County	295,109	Queen's County	168,750
Wexford	443,263	Clare	292,985	Leitrim	162,552
Kildare	365,458	Waterford	289,124	Sligo	145,950
Tyrone	363,737	Roscommon	282,274		
Total,			£13,738,967 (about $68,000,000)		

How can this table be reconciled with those of the last chapter? Here Antrim is set down as the richest county in the kingdom, while the former data make Cork more than twice as large; and Meath, with nineteen other counties, more fertile?

The incongruity is merely apparent. The former tables refer to *nature*, alone; but in the present case it is obvious that *artificial* interests are included. The great commercial preponderance of Belfast more than counterbalances the eight hundred square miles of consolidated lava, which has notorious Knocklayde for its nucleus, and the long, central, barren plateau for its course.

Does not this single fact beautifully illustrate the truth which is so conspicuously established in the history of Holland: that a territory naturally unfortunate may become artificially prosperous, by genius and energy?

Very true; but genius, with all its originality, follows nature, and energy, with all its nervousness, can not swim against the tide. "There is a tide in the affairs of men," which throws back nations, even when the tide of nature is in their favor. Antrim is an illustration of the one truth, while all Ireland shows forth the other; and the county and the kingdom pos-

sess this further peculiar relationship in this point of view: the linen manufacture, to which Belfast owes its commercial importance, in a great measure, and which raises the County of Antrim to the top of the above list, was far behind the woolen manufacture of Ireland at the time of William of Orange, who expressly destroyed the latter, because it interfered greatly, in the foreign market, with the woolen manufactures of England! To compensate for this unparalleled wrong, which is fully avowed and plainly written in the English statute book, William promised to encourage the linen manufacture of Ulster.

"To rear that lordly mansion high,
The country round for miles is stript."

CHAPTER XXXVII.—ANNUAL VALUE OF CHATTEL ESTATE.

Looking at the aggregate of those figures just given, they appear to me to contradict the estimated rental of Mr. Smyth?

Rent has been continually rising in Ireland, as the land is improving; and even Lord Mount Cashel, who has pretensions to be considered a humane landlord, avows that he expects a full fourth of the produce of his estates, no matter from how low to how high a state the labor and outlay of his tenantry may bring that produce. Mr. Smyth's deductions are much later than those just given, but those just given are the standard. It must, however, be borne in mind that neither represents the *chattel* property of the country, but the "dead" annual value of unremovable property, as land and houses.

I should like, then, to know the chattel property of Ireland?

That I can't, and must not tell you now, even if I could; for chattel property is artificial, as well as natural, and we are not yet done with physical geography. But separating the one from the other, we have the following figures from the census of 1841:

THE LIVES-TOCK OF IRELAND.

Horses and Mules,	576,115	at	£8	£4,608,920
Assses,	92,365	at	1	92,365
Cattle,	1,863,115	at	6 10s.	12,110,250
Pigs,	1,412,809	at	1 5s.	1,766,012
Sheep,	2,106,187	at	1 2s.	2,316,806
Poultry,	8,458,200	at	6d.	211,455
Total value of live stock in 1841,				£20,105,808

(Precisely, ninety-six and a half millions of dollars.)

Are these data reliable?

As much so as human reliability can make researches of so complicated and difficult a nature. The enumeration of the people and of the animals of Ireland takes place in *one* night every ten years; and that just given professes to be true for the summer of 1841, or, more strictly speaking, for the one night in which that enumeration was made.

Why not quote from the census of 1851, which is so much later?

Because the latter does not "hold the mirror up to nature." Though as reliable as the former, the census of '51, for certain reasons, is a libel on the productive capacity of Ireland, and would quite mislead you in forming correct notions of that capacity. The cause will be adverted to hereafter, under the head of "Population."

Can you now tell me, in the same satisfactory manner, the exact quantities of wheat, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, etc., which the country has yielded in any one year, or which it annually yields, one year with another?

I can not, for no account of such is kept; but, it has been the custom of the Irish Government, for many years, to require the constabulary, or country police, (who are, also, the efficient agents by whom the decennial census is so precisely and cleverly taken in one night,) to send yearly returns to the Registrar-General of the number of acres under each crop. Classified abstracts of these annual returns are forwarded to the Irish newspapers, and thus, by an arrangement which is unknown to the social system of England and Scotland, and, for aught I know, is peculiar to Ireland, the precise annual produce of this country is better known than that of, perhaps, any other nation of Europe.

What must be the motive on the part of the Government to which this exceptional policy is traceable?

What ever the motive may have been, the thing itself is obviously good, provided no use be made of the knowledge so obtained to injure those who give it. By this plan, absentee landlords, who squeeze all they can from the tillers of the soil and never spend a shilling of it among them, have a check upon the reports of their middlemen, or agents, and can see

from London, Paris, or Constantinople, how their Irish estates are laid out, how much is under wheat, oats, rye, barley, how much under grass, and whether this or that year be the favorable one for demanding arrears or raising the rent! British merchants calculate from these returns, for the sister island draws more provision from Ireland than from all the rest of the world!

SUPPLEMENTAL.

One of those agricultural returns, above specified, is summarised in the following, which is taken from the "*Newry Examiner*," while under the conduct of the writer. The report here commented on relates to the year 1857, and is, therefore, the last, but one, that has been issued:—

In all Ireland it would appear, that in 1857 there were 5,860,089 statute acres under tillage. So says the agricultural report just published. Since the word "tillage" comprehends the cultivated grasses, as clover and meadow, as well as cereal and green crops, we have here all the land in this island,

"From the center all round to the sea,"

which has been scratched this year, with a plough-share or a spade. It ought to interest us, how this cultivated quantity has been disposed of. About a tenth of all the cultivated land in Ireland, this year, has been under wheat; a third under oats; a fifth under potatoes; and barley, bere, rye, beans, peas, turnips, and other green crops make up, together, about an eighth. This one-tenth, one-third, one-fifth, and one-eighth, amount, in the aggregate, to three-fourths of all the cultivated land in Ireland; leaving one-fourth for the cultivated grasses and flax. We have taken the trouble to reduce the quantities of the report into that form of expression, as being popular and intelligible; but here are the precise figures, for whoever prefers the data this way:

Wheat,	562,581
Oats,	1.978,878
Barley, Bere, Rye, Beans, and Peas,	246,257
Potatoes,	1.146,920
Turnips,	348,964
Other green crops,	107,904
Flax,	98,074
Meadow and clover,	1.369,421

These figures are much bigger than the corresponding ones for last year, except those which refer to oats, turnips, and flax, which crops have fallen off this year, as compared with 1856 : —

	Acres.
Oats, less than last year,	58,559
Turnips, " " "	4,487
Flax, " " "	8,237

Making a total falling off, on those three crops, of 71.283. But these seventy-one thousand acres are far from having been fallow. They have gone to swell the wheat, potato, green and barley crops to this extent : —

	Acres.
Wheat, more than last year,	33,531
Potatoes, " " " "	42,216

These two crops alone account for the seventy-one thousand above, and leave a balance of 4.464.

Green crops more than last year,	7,908
Barley, bere, rye, beans, and peas,	27,536
Meadow and clover increase,	66,634

Making a total increase in cereal, meadow, and green crops, of 106,542 acres over last year.

It is curious and significant to note the progressive spread of the potato. Here are the quantities for the last six years : —

	Acres.
1852	876,532
1853	898,733
1854	989,690
1855	882,301
1856	1.104,704
1857	1.146,920

Increase in 1853, over the preceding year, 22,201 acres; in 1854, over 1853, 90,957 acres; in the next year, a small falling off; but in 1856, the increase rose to a quarter of a million, nearly; and this year it is still higher, by the amount stated above.

As potatoes and pigs are co-existent in Ireland, we have the great increase of 333,626 pigs this year, more than the number last year; the number last year not having been quite a million, while the number this year exceeds a million and a quarter. The value of this million and a quarter, is set down as £1.565,199, which is not very far from the value of the pig market before the failure of the potato. Referring to Thom's Almanac for the census of 1841, the pig stock for that year, in Ireland, is valued at £1.766,012, not very much, as we have said, above that for the present year; thus showing a rapid return to the days of pork and potatoes.

But the increase in cattle and sheep is very striking:—

Value of sheep in	1841	£2.316,806
" "	1857	3.793,549

In sheep alone, there is here an increase of near a million and a half of money; and this is more than a quarter of a million sterling less than that for last year. In cattle there is a double increase this year,—an increase over 1856 of £199.459, and an increase over the year of the great census which is quite striking:—

Cattle, (value of,)	1841	£12.110,250
" " "	1857	23.520,536

Thank God, this is very cheering. But we fear very much there is a heart-ache inside this gold lace. Speaking of the numbers of the fine peasantry of Tipperary, especially in the Barony of Middlethird, who are leaving the country, a southern cotemporary expresses his apprehension that agriculture must give place to grass in that quarter. Perhaps this is the case already in many other places, (for instance, Donegal) and sufficiently so to account for the above enormous increase in the value of live stock. Indeed, now that we reflect on the question, we have no doubt whatever about it; and here is our

indisputable proof: In that year, namely, 1841, the population was returned at 8,175,124. The census of 1851 gives the population at 6,552,385, and the returns which now lie before us say the number of our people has further fallen "to 6,047,301, on the first of January, 1857." From this number must be taken the seventy-two thousand emigrants who left this year, up to the first of September, on which day, (births and all included,) our population stood at 6,015,708! Good God, what wholesale sweeping! We now retract that expression above; for, instead of being "cheering," this two hundred per cent. increase of brutes is simply another way of saying, "a noble peasantry, its country's pride," has been destroyed, and can never be supplied, except by—live stock!"

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—MINERAL RESOURCES.

Having examined the soil and its productions, vegetable and animal, let us now see if the *rocks* of Ireland can be turned to any industrial account?

Very well; but on this branch of our topic less is known than on any other subject connected with Irish industry. It is agreed on all hands, however, that Ireland possesses in her mountains and hills, and even in her plains, a body of mineral wealth of which only the outer croppings have been yet touched; and how much countries, in all ages, have been enriched by their mineral resources the history of commerce shows. To her coal and iron England's manufacturing eminence and consequent commercial standing are mainly owing. The prosperity of Belgium flows, in a great measure, from a similar source. When confederated Europe surrounded France, after the Revolution, excluding her with a wall of bayonets from the family of nations, spider-like she found in her own bowels the materials of that iron net-work which she soon threw over the whole European system. While California and Victoria, springing almost instantly into compact political systems and a high civilization, are still more remarkable effects from the same cause—mineral wealth.

As far, then, as is known of the mineral wealth of Ireland, I should like to follow you in this inquiry?

Perhaps the coal of England, or the steel of Styria, or the silver of Peru, or the gold of California, is not of more value to the nation or the continent than the plain limestone of Ireland. For much of that vegetable and animal wealth spoken of in the last chapters, is directly traceable to lime as a mineral and lime as a manure. As a mineral, its influence on the subsoil is warm and fertilizing, counteracting the superabundant humidity; and, as a manure, its golden returns are far more certain and bounteous than the quartz-crushing processes of Bendigo or Mount St. Charles. In Galway, and other counties, the limestone is found crystallized into marble, and is exported as such to England.

How extensive is this rock in Ireland?

More so than any other. It occupies the whole central plain and crops out in the valleys of the volcanic rocks. It is also found on the tops of some of the mountains—for instance, of Belmore, in Fermanagh, where it is six hundred and fifty feet thick, but, generally speaking, it is much lower than the same class of rock in England, which, from its elevation, is there termed the "mountain limestone." Limestone rocks are of two kinds, upper and lower; the former is rugged, splintery, and cliffy, and in it are found the great caves of Dunmore and Clopooke, in the Queen's County; but this rock is very limited in Ireland, its place being better filled by the lower limestone, which greets the farmer in every county of Ireland, and realizes the full moral of Æsop's beautiful fable of the hidden treasure.

Which are the other economic rocks of Ireland?

Rough, and fine-grained granite — gray, brown, blue, and reddish slate — white, black, striped, and mottled marbles — millstone, freestone, ironstone, coal, rocksalt, copper, lead and silver, with sulphur, porphyry, felspar, manganese, antimony, zinc, nickel, gypsum ochres, beryls, diamonds, and "the greatest formation of true alum in Europe."

CHAPTER XXXIX. — COAL.

What "other places" in Ireland did you refer to in Chapter XIV, as yielding native coal?

Besides Coal Island, Kilkenny and Tipperary, the other

places possessing coal are Antrim, Roscommon, Monaghan, Leitrim, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, and Cork. Anahone and Drumglas collieries, as well as those of Coal Island, are in Tyrone. The Connaught coal district has Lough Allen for its center, and a periphery, which embraces parts of Fermanagh, Sligo and Cavan, and is calculated to contain about twenty thousand acres of coal, or twenty millions of tons.

Where have you got this big figure?

From the Report of the Railway Commissioners of 1838; and the Munster coal-field, embracing, as it does, near half that province, is described by Mr. M'Nevin as "the most extensive development of coal strata in the British Empire."

Considering the great colleries of England, Wales, and Scotland, some of which are worked to such a vast depth, even under the bed of the sea, rivaling in extent the salt excavations of Cracow, and considering the facts stated in our Fourteenth conversation, does not this statement of Mr. M'Nevin look like a violation of strict truth?

So it does; and yet, if arithmetic be allowed to decide the matter, I believe it would bear out that writer. However, the fact appears to be, that while, superficially, the Munster coal-field is one of the most extensive in Europe, its depth is not known, and no part of it has been yet found to yield *gas;* consequently, in the present state of things, Ireland is far behind the sister island in respect to mineral fuel. This fact is *felt*, and must be admitted, till geological research discovers in Ireland some more extensive deposit of *bitumenous* coal than is yet known in the north.

Am I to understand that the coal found in the north of Ireland is bitumenous and that of the south anthracite?

Exactly so; a line drawn from Dublin Bay to Galway Bay divides the two districts, that to the north yields brilliant and profuse gas—that to the south, particularly in Kilkenny, has coal so pure as to require no flue to protect the ceiling or drapery—a singular if not a beautiful feature in the industrial development of the country. Of this coal, 95 per cent. is pure carbon.

How extensive is the Kilkenny coal-field?

Look at the map—that district between the rivers Barrow and Nore is the Leinster coal section, and the great collieries

of Castlecomer yield about 120,000 tons annually. Those of Tipperary yield about half that quantity; but both are evidently the same coal-field, being divided by only a strip of limestone.

Of all the Irish collieries, which are considered the most important at the present moment?

Those of Tyrone hold the first place; those of Kilkenny stand next, and those of Cork, appear to be third in importance.

CHAPTER XL.—IRON.

I have now a satisfactory idea of the nature and extent of coal in Ireland—what next?

Coal and iron, by a benevolent and miraculous coincidence in nature, are generally found in the same territory, and in some territories, as England, for instance, they are almost coextensive. These two minerals are greater agents of civilization than all the others put together.

Does this coincidence exist in Ireland?

It does. Almost every locality just named possesses iron ore, though very little of it is worked. Sir William Petty (the Griffiths of his day,) says, that no fewer than 6,600 smelting iron factories were in full blast in Ireland about a hundred and seventy years ago!—a very remarkable fact, which can not be controverted, as Petty was the government authority of those days. Yet, in 1838, when Mr. Griffiths wrote his "Outline," the Arigna iron works were the only ones in operation in the island!

Where are those situated?

On the little river Arigna, in the north of Roscommon, near the west bank of Lough Allen, which is the center of one of the richest metalliferous regions in Ireland. Here are mountains so economically constituted that the same one yields different valuable minerals. Brahlieve, for instance, out of which the little stream just named rises, has a valuable coal-mine on its summit, building-stone at its base, and millstone of a superior quality between; and Cuilcagh, at the other side of the lake, in Cavan, is a table-land inviting industry to a

still greater variety. "Many of the flattened ironstone spheroids (of Cuilcagh) are extremely large, and some which are reticulated by veins of calcareous spar, present magnificent specimens of septaria. Within the last century many small iron works, or bloomeries, were carried on in the valley of Swanlinbar," the iron ore having been got in this mountain, and the woods of the valley supplying the fuel; but now the woods are nearly all gone, and the works, with a few exceptions, have consequently ceased.

Can human ingenuity, then, take no advantage of that natural coincidence which unites coal and iron in the bowels of the earth?

It can, and does, in England, notwithstanding that a few large forests are still there; but the discovery is a late one, and till it was made the English factories of this class had ceased, also, for a time. Coal will not smelt iron, but coke of a certain kind will; and recent experiments made in Ireland have shown, that the anthracite of Leinster and Munster will serve the same purpose. Experiments have also been made, with the same design, upon the coke of compressed peat, which can be made as dense as any coal, and the results are likewise represented as highly favorable—a discovery of incalculable importance to Ireland.

You might, then, have enumerated this among the uses of peat as catalogued in our conversation on the bogs?

Perhaps so; but the results of its practical application are yet to be seen. A theory may look beautiful in experiment, and utterly disappoint in practice.

What is the quality of the iron ores of Ireland?

That of Kilkenny is represented as equal to that of Lough Allen; and that of Lough Allen as equalled only by the black-band ironstone of Glasgow. The Arigna iron ore has some beds two feet thick, and enough to last two furnaces in constant blast for near three hundred years. The ores of Kerry are well known. Petty himself worked the Blackstones' mine, near Lough Carragh, which exhausted the fine woods of Glencarre; and, if I recollect rightly, the father of another celebrated writer, Mrs. Hall, worked one of the several other ores in the same metalliferous region.

CHAPTER XLI. — COPPER, LEAD, SILVER.

Which of all the metals is most diffused in Ireland?

Perhaps lead; and copper occupies the next place in point of extent. Silver is found, in connection with lead, in all the mines of the latter. The copper mines, however, appear to be the most remunerative of this group.

Which, then, are the principal copper mines of the country, and where situated?

The principal are in Wicklow, Waterford, Cork, and Kerry. The "Sweet Vale of Avoca" is not richer in beauty than in goodness. Here have been worked, for a series of years, several copper mines of great capacity and quality. On the north bank of that lovely stream are the mines of Cronebane, Connoree, and Tigroney; on the south, those of Ballymurtagh and Ballygahan.

Which of these is the most valuable?

Perhaps the first named. That of Ballymurtagh, however, has been worked from a remoter date; but a disagreement having arisen between the proprietors, which caused operations to cease for a while, a third party stepped across the stream and commenced to explore the hill of Cronebane. As in the fable which gives the booty to the fox while the lion and tiger are fighting for it, a body of metallic wealth was thus discovered, which threw that of Ballymurtagh and every other then known in the country completely into the shade. This hill is a natural magazine of valuable minerals; a single shaft passes down through an ore of iron, an ore of lead mixed with silver, an ore of silver rock, and, lastly, the rich copper ore! The silver rock yields seventy-five ounces of pure silver to the ton of ore—the single ton yielding at the same time much lead; while the underlying copper ore is about thirty times richer!

Point me out the situations of the other mines referred to?

The copper ores of Waterford, which are now worked by the "Mining Company of Ireland," are on the coast, between Dungarvan and Tramore, at the mouth of the little river Mahon. They are known as the "Knockmahon Mines," and are four in number. In the single year of 1843 the copper produce of this one locality realized some $300,000. Over a

thousand persons are constantly employed in these mines. The others are in that romantic corner of the island where the mountains of Cork and Kerry present their united iron fronts to the roaring ocean.

Any thing particular respecting these latter?

The Audley mines are as rich as those of Cronebane, containing as they do about eight per cent. of copper, while they are calculated to extend over five thousand acres. Berehaven yields ten per cent. of pure copper, which exceeds the average produce of the great mines of Cornwall, (England.) That of Allihies is better known, though the yield in 1843 was only about half that of Waterford. The copper mines of Killarney have employed five hundred men daily, and the ore sells from £14 to £40 per ton.

Please to shorten these dry details, by telling me the aggregate value of all these mines in any one year?

At this inconvenient distance, the only returns I can lay my hand on are for the three years, 1836, 1840 and 1843; and the average yield of Irish copper ore for any *one* of these years was 19,636 tons, sold in Swansea for £136,467, or something over half a million, one hundred thousand dollars.

Where is Swansea?

It is a seaport in the south of Wales, on the British Channel, to which place all the copper ore of Ireland and Cornwall is sent to be smelted; as it is deemed more convenient, since the mines have used up the local woods, to send the ore to the fuel than to bring the fuel to the ore.

Now as to the lead mines of Ireland?

In Wicklow alone, near a dozen have been opened and worked, from time to time; the principal of which are those of Ballycorus, Glenmalure, and Glendalough. Mines of this metal have been also worked in Clare, Down, Armagh, Louth, Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Dublin, and lead is found in Galway, Longford, Kildare, Meath, and other counties. One general fact must suffice, in this case, for many particular ones: lead abounds in every quarter of the country, and wherever lead is, there is silver to a greater or less degree.

Can you give me any idea of the proportions which the lead and silver bear to each other and to the ore, in a given quantity of the latter?

At Ballycorus (the Swansea of Ireland as respects lead) 674 tons of ore have yielded 460 tons of pure lead—a very high per centage; and the proportion of silver ranges from three to one hundred and twenty ounces to the ton of the other metal. Clare yields the maximum proportion of silver, which is also found in large quantities at Silvermines in the adjoining county of Tipperary.

CHAPTER XLII.—OTHER MINERAL PRODUCTIONS.

Are the other mineral productions of the country a source of wealth?

Certainly. The marbles of Ireland are of almost every tint; black, white, striped, mottled, green, gray, brown, red, flesh-colored. Statuary marble is met with in Donegal and Galway, which M'Cullagh allows to be "nearly equal to that of Italy." Almost every county in Connaught and Munster yields marble of a fine quality. The speckled black, of Kilkenny, is extensively used at home and abroad for mantle-pieces. Mines are met with, also, in Carlow, Longford, King's County, Westmeath, Armagh, and several other places. Irish marbles are now exported to several states of America, and have been long used in Great Britain.

Are any other Irish minerals exported?

Slate and sulphur are abundant in Ireland. The great southern clay-slate deposit, which extends from the Barrow to Valentia, possesses an inexhaustible supply of slate, much of which is exported. Slate quarries abound, also, in the north and west, while the numerous sulphuric and chalybeate springs reveal the existence of sulphur and iron in localities as yet unknown to the miner. Wicklow sulphur has been exported to the extent of 100,000 tons per annum.

Any thing else in the same direction?

Till a few years ago Ireland was dependant on England for salt; and for a long time it was thought that the first named country had none of this indispensable mineral. Within the last few years inexhaustible supplies, "rivaling those for which England has long been famous," have been discovered—a capital illustration of how little is known, as yet, of the mineral

resources of the Emerald Isle. Excellent native rock-salt is now mined in Antrim, near Carrickfergus. Mineral paints, coarse porcelain, pottery, and such plastic clays, are found in Tipperary, Cork, and other parts of the country, and whole districts of the sea shore consist of strands of minute marine shells, which yield lime for manure to an infinite extent, of which the peasantry of those parts take annual advantage.*

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* Shultz, the botanist, regretted that the floras of "two great islands" of Europe, Ireland and Sardinia, were unknown; and he might have added (says somebody else) that the fauna of Ireland is also unwritten. M'Cullagh says, "the broad-leaved myrtle grows luxuriously in the Leinster counties, and the arbutus is not native to any other country so remote from the equator." It grows, without fosterage, all through Munster; but at Killarney the deep emerald of its leaves and the scarlet of its berries relieve so finely the gray rocks, the sparkling bubbles, and the variegated foliage of the woods. Respecting our fauna, the defunct Irish moose deer, or elk, whose skeletons, found in the bogs, may be seen in the Dublin and British Museums, is, perhaps, the most perfect, as it is, on account of its gigantic proportions, one of the noblest of geological fossils. The Irish gray-hound is unequalled for size, strength, grace, and swiftness. With these remarks, we dismiss these two subjects; but the Fisheries of the country are too important to be so treated, and, constituting a feature of the social system in that country, as they do, will not be out of place in the second division of this publication. The first, devoted to *nature*, is now concluded.

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER XLIII. — DEDUCTIONS FROM THE PRECEDING.

I should now like to know, if the physical facts just explained afford any solution of the social state of Ireland in the present or the past?

Most certainly they do. In the past, the situation, climate, scenery and resources of the country lie at the bottom of the historical current in that quarter, accounting for its smooth and turbid, its clear and muddy, its dark and sparkling course of two thousand years. In the present, the fertility of the soil and its peculiar adaptability for the growth of the potato, which is strongly suspected to be the dough in the loaf of population, explaining its great tendency to swell, as shown by the census of 1821, '31 and '41, with other natural causes just referred to, in conjunction with political circumstances, have thrown the vast body of the people upon agriculture, and thus a prominent feature of existing social phenomena is accounted for.

Be more explicit—how does the situation of Ireland help to unravel the thread of its history?

Is it not obvious, that to strike a man down or lift him up, you must be *near* him; and to do the one or the other repeatedly, is impossible to any but a *neighbor*. Thus Spain lost Mexico, Portugal lost Brazil, and England the United States; thus China still remains wrapt up in her exclusiveness, and thus India has thrown off for ever the incubus of a commercial turanos, dictating from the Thames. Temptation in the moral world, like attraction in the physical, depends on distance, which negatives the loadstone itself, while proximity is always nudging force to make the spring. Mr. Gavan Duffy placed the recent bold front of the Australians to the home power and the new constitution of Victoria, to the credit of the Atlantic Ocean!

But what has this to do with Ireland?

It illustrates more than six hundred years of its modern history, and shows why the Roman Legions never crossed swords with Crimthan or Dathy on Irish soil; while those of Den-

mark and England so often tried the battle axe of Boru, and the pike of O'Neill.

What social feature of Ireland is traceable to climate?

The health, strength and wiry endurance of its people in every age, as testified to by native and foreign writers. The absence of venomous reptiles is also a social blessing attributable to the same cause.

I can not so easily see what scenery has to do with social arrangements?

It certainly renders a land lovable, and is thus an element of patriotism. It imperceptibly forms taste, and thus comes under the artistic axiom "look on beauty and be refined." A love of the beautiful is inspired by beauty, the taste of which sweetens us unto morality, and morality in the elder sister of religion. It is very noticeable that almost every lovely spot in Ireland is wedded to ecclesiastical history, by saintly memories and holy ruins; behold Glendolough, Inisfallen, Clonmacnoise, Lismore, Iniscatery, Arran More, Kong, Holy Cross, &c.

Can you now point to any corresponding effects in the habits of individuals or the customs of the country?

If I do, it is not to attribute them exclusively to this cause. The women are proverbially chaste, the men incorruptible, and both hold a first place among the most religious people on the face of the earth. They have given the most surprising proofs of love of country, attachment to religious conviction, and recognition of truth to be met with in modern history; if *seven million of dollars*, remitted from America alone, in one year, by the poor exiles of Erin, be a proof of the first; if three centuries of endured religious proscription be a test of the second; and the great moral revolution of Father Mathew be a criterion of the third.

And, now, as to the resources of the country, I suppose these are still more intimately connected with its social history, as inviting those foreign aggressions, and thus explaining many a red page of its chronicles.

This is the kernel of the whole question. Cromwell is reported to have said, as he looked down on the Golden Vale from the hills of Tipperary, and consoled his myrmidons for the loss of some two thousand of their comrades before the walls of Clonmel—"My men, is not that a country worth fighting for!"

His Strongbownian predecessors are reported as having expressed the same idea, and it must be allowed in justice to the foreigners. that as far back as Irish history goes from the first Danish Invasion, this appears to have been the practical motto of the native chiefs also. Thus the greatest natural blessing became a standing social curse. Another, but a very different social effect of those abundant resources, was that large hospitality which has characterized the individual and the community, in that country, from the remotest times.

HISTORY.

CHAPTER XLIV.—ABORIGINAL PERIOD.*

It is the expressed opinion of one (Doctor O'Donovan,) who has done more for Irish history and topography than, perhaps, any living man, that there is no portion of our annals bearing upon any period previous to the fifth century, which can be relied upon as authentic history. Yet many portions of those ancient records are not only in consonance with our knowledge of nature, and the physical geography of the country, but are also corroborated by received cotemporaneous history, and illustrated by reliques and monuments of the highest antiquity. When to all this be added deep-rooted traditions bearing in the same direction, whose antiquity as established by the remote writers who notice them, such as Nennius, Bede, and Barry of Wales, is an important fact in itself, quite apart from their truth or falsity. Of course we do not hesitate

* In explanation of the length of this chapter, and the absence therein, of the interrogatory form, it was written in 1855, in compliance with the request of a clergyman, who was then engaged in the compilation of a treatise on Ireland, and personally unknown to me, save as the author of one original work of repute, and some translations from the Italian. I was surprised at his calling on an obscure individual of very limited historical information, but he was directed, he said, by Gavan Duffy. My instructions were to go behind the Christian Era, and account for the first peopling of the island, to be brief, and avoid all the fables and *vexatæ questiones* which obscure that segment of the historical horizon in the longitude of Ierne. As dispatch was required, this hasty lucubration was the result which I feel now, I have no opportunity to make better.

to reject as false, because opposed to our knowledge of nature, and the present latitude of the island, the story of a Milesian chief descrying the coast of Ireland from the heights of Braganza; yet the very discovery of this flourish of the imagination in a manuscript whose antiquity can be vouched for, is a historical fact in itself, of very positive significance, respecting one disputed point in our annals. We do not reject the whole Æneid because of the wooden horse, and because almost every fact therein, is blended with a poet's fancies. We hold a suspicion that those fancies are the blossoms of some hidden grain of truth, and so we look around for the Homeric means to disinter it. The few, but highly significant allusions to Ireland in the Greek and Latin writers, should serve a similar purpose. Tacitus says, the ports of Ireland were better known in the second century for commerce and traders, than those of Britain. A single fact like this, though only as a pin-hole in a dungeon, reveals a whole landscape of historical inferences. Nothing is alone in nature, and nothing is alone in society, and every fact is a hook upon which hangs many a circumstance; but sometimes it takes the eyes of a Newton to see circumstances which have been falling since the creation. And sometimes men are less discriminating in their way than children; for, like Ledwidge, they see no alternative but to swallow the tinsel or throw away the ginger-bread. Embellishment is never wasted on the worthless: in truth, it is the value of the historical blade which calls for the ornamental scabbard. Imagination seldom takes liberties with reality where reality has not trifled with probability: an angel levels a blow at Deity—we have Paradise Lost; oriental reality exceeds occidental pobability—we have Lalla Rookh. Thus, fancy is never over-gallant, but when fact is coquettish and provoking. The tendency of the human mind, is not to create a positive, but to deduce a comparative and a superlative; we are not prone to regard as great what was never great, but to make the absolutely great greater, and the greater greatest. A great man is greater when he stands on the shoulders of a biographer, but he never would have the biographer if he had not been some way great; and what is true of the man is true of the country and what is true of the biographer, is true of the historian. There never yet was an ærial bubble so fragile, as not to leave

on the finger that broke it, the substantial soap and water evidence of *some* fact. He who has seen what you have not seen, will tell you it beats all you ever saw. Historians are like travelers, they love to magnify; not so much out of disregard for truth as to enhance the value of what they have to communicate. This was more the fashion formerly than now, for then the world was young, and men without steam, movable types, powder, and copper wire, were whiskered children who opened their eyes and clapped their hands at little magnitudes. This is human nature, if we know any thing about it, and human nature is a good telescope for examining objects so distant as that before us.

There is much in Cæsar's account of Gaul, in the life of Agricola by Tacitus, and in the Geography of Ptolemy, to illustrate our native annals; while the existing monuments, the cairns and pillar stones and cromlechs and sepulchral vaults, and the stately round towers, and the innumerable archæological fossils, in gold and silver, and copper and iron, with many other bequests of a defunct civilization, which our bogs and mounds have yielded, and our museums preserve "in larger quantities, it is admitted, than in England or any other country of Europe," have never been over-looked by the earnest scrutinizers of our aboriginal or mediæval history. As thus tested, there are many important conclusions respecting society in this island anterior to its reception of Christianity, which pass confessed out of every controversy on this dark and disputed period. It is confessed, that in the second century of our era, the ports of this island were better known to foreigners than those of Britain. It is allowed, on all hands, that the Romans never conquered this country as they did Britain and the west of Europe. It is not denied, that long before this, it was a country of commercial importance, frequented by the most distant traders, intimately known to those pioneers of commerce, the Phœnicians, and thus in communication with the seat and center of the then civilization. No one questions the form of religion or worship in which the aboriginal Celts of this island gave expression to their simple ideal of Deity. It is not disputed that the name of this form of worship was Druidism. No one denies that it was deeply rooted in the convictions and veneration of the people, and

that the country was one of the greatest strongholds of the system. All allow, that according to this system, fire and water, the oak and the mistletoe, were objects of veneration, that its votaries worshipped in the open air, in groves of oak, with no other roof than the outspread arms and shady foliage of their favorite tree and the blue ceiling of the skies, through which they beheld face to face, the great object of their adoration, the Sun.

There is scarcely a large island of extent in the world, the history of whose earliest recorded colonization does not surprise us with the report of its previous occupation. Before the spread of geographical knowledge, since the discovery of printing, the improvement of navigation, and the scientific construction of maps, the discovery of a new country, hundreds of miles distant from the known world, already pre-occupied by human beings, was well calculated to astonish even the enlightened. But who that knows, that the tide comes and goes twice a day, scouring millions of shores, running into the mouths of rivers, and up for miles into the middle of countries, depositing in them, or taking away therefrom whatever, by accident or design, is committed to that unbridled vehicle; who that has spent one month upon the sea coast in any part of the world, and observed the universal proneness to fishing and yachting, and the strong temptation which there exists to take a jaunt which costs nothing to feed the horses; who that has traveled or read travels, and knows that this is true of savage as well as of civilized sea-board nations; who that has ever unfolded before him any map whatever of the world, and observed the very narrow channels which scarcely serve to separate the largest continents, and how the majority of islands lead to one another, like stepping stones crossing a river: who, I repeat, has submitted these facts to his serious reflection, and then feels surprised at the ante-historical diffusion of his species? Seeing therefore that every account of a systematized colonization of this island, admits its previous occupation, those writers who, like Sir William Betham, contend that the Woody Island of the west, must have received its first human occupants from the adjacent coasts, some of which are within the eye's reach of ours, stand upon a pedestal of the strongest probability. Surely, there is nothing in this hypothe-

sis to necessitate the rejection by these writers of an organized colonization, or invasion from a more distant country in subsequent times; and, on the other hand, nothing in the fact or supposition of such distant colonization to necessitate the rejection by Irish writers of an anterior immigration, in the natural way, be it individual or collective, by the force of the population current from the east, by the accidents of nature, or the spirit of adventure. By this last description of migration must we account for the existence of that race which Columbus found in America, as well as for the discovery of America itself; by the former, we explain its immediate increase of population, its industrial activity, its commerce, its political importance, the colonization of the South and the West, from the North and the East, at the present hour, and all the other migration phenomena of our own times. Without a similar explanation, it would be difficult to account for the very early importance commercially and politically of this country, the most westerly island of extent, belonging to the then known world.

Be this as it may, it is unanimously admitted that the country had been colonized at different times, long before the Christian Era. Africa, Scandinavia, Germany, Spain, and Britain, have been identified, with more or less positiveness, as the respective fountains of these several streams of population. Never minding the controverted points of the different theories on this head, this much is allowed by all—that the adventurous and civilizing Phœnicians were among the first visitants to our shores. That they held a continued communication with the island for a long time, on terms of exchange, precludes controversy. And this other fact which seems to explain the last, is indubitable—the ores of the country abounded with the precious metals, gold was plenty, silver abundant, copper profuse. Till this day silver bullion and rich copper ore are prominent articles of Irish export; and, within the memory of living men, virgin gold, eighteen carets fine, have been got in the hills Wicklow, by the peasantry in considerable nuggets, to the value of many thousands of pounds. Pearls abounded in our waters, and precious stones must have been plenty, when they are still found in the sands of our shores and prized by the aristocracy. Not long ago, a precious stone

found in the sands of Arklow, by a peasant, for which he received only a few pounds, after exchanging several hands, bringing its new owner at each exchange, a still higher price, was sold at last for four thousand pounds sterling, ($20,000.) Add to this the peculiar fertility of the soil, which caused Bede to apply to it the character of the promised land—*Dives lactis ac mellis Insula*—"a land rich in milk and honey;" and, even Cambrensis, still later, writes, *Frugibus arva, pecora, montes, nemerosa feres abundant*—"the fields abound in fruits, the hills in cattle, and the woods in wild beasts." These facts may help to explain that important admission of Tacitus, that the ports of Ireland were better known in his time, than those of Britain. And the minute knowledge of the island, its towns and harbors and head-lands and rivers and people, which, in the second century, Ptolemy, the Geographer, displays, bears out the evidence of the Roman historian.

Of all the reported invasions or migrations to which we have referred that, said to have proceeded from Spain, occupies the first place in point of importance, if not in point of time. Studiously avoiding disputed matter, we can not side with those who, in order to make out for their country a case of the highest antiquity, never stop till they go back to Noah or one of his sons, and even then profess to be minute and positive. Nor can we sympathise with that other class of writers who reject, *in toto*, a tradition which can be shown to be held by the entire people from whatever time they choose to date our authentic history. Do they allow that date to be no further back than Elizabeth or the last of the Henrys, they instantly find their accepted history recording the claims of Irish chieftains in the North and the South to the Spanish nation, on the ground of a common origin, for help against the fire-and-sword imposers of the new tyranny. Do they allow that date to extend back to the Invasion, they find one of the invaders himself, the historian Cambrensis, speaking of this same Spanish origin as a tradition *then*. Will they trust farther back, they meet the younger Sedulius, who flourished in the eighth century, writing a whole treatise upon this same topic. This treatise was discovered not very long ago by Sir John O'Higgins, physician to Philip the Fifth of Spain, in a monastery in Galicia. Even so early as the third century we

are told, that the king of Munster having been expelled his territory by the monarch Conn, surnamed "Of the Hundred Battles," fled to Spain where he obtained the king's daughter in marriage, and was supplied with reinforcements sufficient to recover his patrimony. Whatever amount of credence, therefore, is due to the details of the Milesian colonization, nobody denies that the tradition is deep-rooted, and so old as to constitute a species of antiquity in itself.

As to the ancient polity of this island it is an important admission, on all hands, that here as well as elsewhere, Christianity though completely demolishing the previously existing religious system, produced no convulsion in the civil government. This being so, such as that constitution was at, and subsequent to, the time of St. Patrick, very much the same it must have been for centuries previous. *The period, therefore, which comes under the cognizance of admittedly authentic history may on this point at least, reflect a sufficiently clear twilight, so to speak, upon that which, in point of time was, immediately behind it.*

CHAPTER XLV. — MEDIÆVAL PERIOD.

What limits do you place to the next division of Irish history?

It is convenient to date it from the arrival of St. Patrick to that of Henry II; that is from 432 to 1172.

Is there no doubt respecting the credibility of this section of your annals?

It is as well authenticated as any corresponding section of universal history, and all historians, foreign as well as native, accept it as such with one singular exception.

What exception is that?

Towards the close of the last century, an Irish antiquarian named Ledwidge astonished historians and the public by denying the existence of St. Patrick!

Must not *somebody* have brought the gospel to Ireland, and why, then, did Ledwidge quarrel about the name?

It was not the name but the individual, as portrayed by his biographers, Probus, Jocelin and others, whose over-credulous narratives are to be seen in Colgan's Tripartite, in Keating

and other compilations of that extravagant class. These writers so often suspend the laws of nature in accounting for the miraculous success of this great apostle of the west, that Ledwidge, without the discrimination and learning of Usher, or the industry and patience of Ware, his countrymen and coreligionists, threw the historical chaff and grain overboard together.

Has this singular writer supported his views by any arguments?

He has, he was a learned man and a principal writer in the *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, but exceedingly sceptic and farfetched, the very antithesis of Jeoffrey Keating and John Colgan, but all those learned men were long dead, and it remained for Doctor Lanigan to meet Ledwidge and write over again the mediæval history of Ireland.

Who was Doctor Lanigan?

Perhaps the shrewdest historical critic that Ireland has produced, not excepting Usher. He has dealt very severely with all those writers, as if he had made up his mind to bury each one of them in his own learned rubbish. Protestant as well as Catholic historians look on Lanigan's argument on this point as conclusive.

I am now prepared for the historical narrative respecting this period.

It must be brief and in general terms. It is generally allowed that St. Patrick was not an Irishman; that Patrick was not his original name, and that his first landing in the island was as a slave. It is also undisputed, that he was not the first preacher of the gospel in that country, and that some native Christians were there at his arrival. Kieran, Ailbe, Declan, and Ibar were Christian missionaries, and Palladius who immediately preceded St. Patrick, was dead before the latter arrived in his apostolic character. His family was respectable and he was educated by St. Martin of Tours, (France), who was his maternal uncle. Pope Celestine the First was in the chair of Peter; and as Peter himself was so named for distinction-sake and significance, so Celestine changed the young apostle's name from "Succath" to "Patricius," the former meaning "warlike" and the latter "patrician" or father. With a *posse commitatus* of learned and pious men, the intrepid Patricius

proceeded to the "Land of the West," which he invaded in a very different style from that in which Nial and Dathy had invaded his country a few years before, and in which this very Patricius had been taken either as a spoil or a hostage.

Who were Nial and Dathy?

The two last pagan monarchs of Scotia Major which was then the Latin name of Ireland. Dathy, the last of all, carried his arms as far as the Alps where, we are told, he was killed by a fork of lightning. And long before this we have the authority of Tacitus, that the Irish monarch, Crimthan, brought Hibernian forces into Britain, to help that country in repulsing the Roman general, Agricola.

What was the immediate result of St. Patrick's mission?

Wonderful, miraculous success. Had Ledwidge lived to witness the first six years of Father Mathew's ovation, from '42 to '46 inclusive, it might have opened his eye to the possibility of sudden moral revolutions among millions. From the year 432, when St. Patrick landed on the east coast, to the year 795, when the Danes first appeared in the same quarter, the country had attracted the notice and admiration of the known world, by the number of its schools and monasteries, and the shoals of missionaries they sent forth over the west, center and south of Europe, and even into Asia. Were I to use the language of Nennius, Bede, Campden, Mosheim, Muratori, Canisius, the Bollandists, Allemont, and many others of the first historical celebrity, all foreigners speaking on this subject, it would be regarded as the language of one who loved to praise his country even at the expense of truth, a reputation, I hope, I shall never aspire to. "School of the west," "mother of the modern theology," "Island of Saints," are the designations which all employ speaking of Ireland during these four centuries.

How long did the Danes continue to harrass the country?

Till the year 1014. The interval of two hundred years witnessed the decay of religion, the burning of monasteries, and colleges, and churches, wholesale plunder, massacre, desecration and sacrilege. Herick of Auxerre, a French writer, has these words — "Almost all Ireland, with a vast train of philosophers, removed to France in the 9th century, driven away (no doubt) by the cruelties and devastations of the Danes."

The Danes, then, as well as the English, beat ye upon your own soil?

This is the fortune of war everywhere. About this very time, England was beaten upon her own soil by those very Danes and by William of Normandy. The Danes at this period were the most formidable power in Europe, carrying fire and sword over all the west of the continent. It is computed that over forty thousand English were massacred by the Danes at one sweep. But nowhere did they receive more magnificent thrashings or a more complete final overthrow than in Ireland.

What happened in 1014?

The decisive Battle of Clondarf, where all the collected power of Denmark was crushed.

Who commanded the Irish, and how long did the contest last?

It was a regular pitched battle and lasted nine hours. The day was a remarkable one, being Good Friday, which fell in that year on the 23d of April. The enemy disputed, as the Danes always disputed, every inch of ground with the greatest obstinacy, till 5 o'clock in the evening, when they broke and were driven into Dublin Bay. Sitrick the Danish King and Brien Boru, perhaps the greatest of all the Irish monarchs, were the chief commanders. Boru, at the time, was near 90 years of age, and died that night by the hand of a straggling Dane, who was thus revenged for the loss of his cause.

"Remember the glories of Brien the brave,
Tho' the days of the hero are o'er,
Tho' lost to Mononia and cold in the grave
He returns to Kinkora no more;
The star of the field, which so often had poured
Its beam on the battle, is set
But enough of its glory remains on each sword,
To light us to victory yet!"

CHAPTER XLVI.—MODERN PERIOD.

I will now thank you for a glance at the turning points of Irish history, from the landing of the English till the present time.

They may be indicated arithmetically thus — 1172, 1540, 1641, 1688, 1782, 1798, 1800, 1829, 1842, 1848.

Try and express in one sentence what those dates refer to.

Respectively, the Invasion, the Reformation, the "Insurrection," the Revolution, Legislative Independence, the "Rebellion," the Union, Emancipation, the Temperance phenomenon, and the late Revolt.

First, as to the Invasion?

It happened this way. In the 12th century, and for many centuries before, the Irish government was a pentarchy or rather a pantarchy. That is, each of the four provinces was a kingdom governed by its own sovereign, and these four sovereigns acknowledge a superior sovereign who was styled "the monarch;" which word is Greek and means "sole-governor," as pentarchy in the same language means "government by five." But, as there were under these many powerful chieftains, who were recognized as sovereign governors in their respective districts, and who were often strong enough to dispute the provincial sovereignty by force of arms, *all* of them may be regarded as sharing the government or pantarchy.

What then?

This — unity in the action of the nation was seldom attained, and an invading force was sure to find native chieftains to revenge their private wrongs or losses by joining the side of the stranger. In this way the Danes had been enabled to hold their ground in the island for two hundred years; even at the great struggle of Clontarf the king of Leinster supported the Danish side! And it was a king of the same province, by name Dermod M'Murragh, who invited the English.

Probably to revenge some grievance real or fancied?

A real grievance but a just one. He was expelled his territory by the monarch Rotherick O'Connor, and abandoned by his own subjects because he wounded a brother prince, O'Rorke of Breffne, in the most delicate part — his honor, by taking away his wife Dervorgilla. He then fled to England for succor, which he obtained and with which he succeeded in holding his position in Leinster till the arrival of Strongbow and Henry II in a couple of years after. Though the first English reinforcements landed in 1169, and Strongbow's troop the year

after, yet it is usual to date the English connexion from 1172, when Henry himself was in Ireland.

Now, as to the Reformation and the interval?

For about four hundred years the guerilla struggle between the Irish and the English continued with various success, the "Pale" contracting and expanding and contracting again, sometimes extending from the mouth of the Bann to the mouth Barrow and near halfway inland, to be soon hemmed in within the limits of Louth, Meath and Dublin.

What do you mean by the Pale?

The English province in Ireland, as that province wished to be designated.

What effect had the introduction of the Reformation on the civil affairs of the two parties?

It widened the breach more and more. The previous contentions between the Pale and the nation were trifles, compared with the hand and throat encounters which took place now. Before, the English and the Irish were of one creed, and the hierarchy which both recognized and respected was a link of union by means of which was forged another, the link of marriage. Thus, many a bloody battle was prevented, and many which took place presented this curious spectacle—Irish chiefs assisting the English on one side, and English lords raising the standard of the Irish on the other! Indeed some of the English nobles (if those can be regarded as English who were natives of Ireland,) in particular the princely house of Fitzgerald, were said to have been *Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores*, "more Irish than the Irish themselves." Members of this family were the leaders of three noted revolts—that of Silken Thomas against Henry VIII, that of Desmond against Elizabeth, and that of Lord Edward against George III.

What was the character of the Insurrection in 1641?

It was a religious war, the climax of all the fighting that preceded it in the country, as thousands were massacred on both sides in that year. A hundred years had elapsed since the first introduction of the new religion into Ireland, by Archbishop Brown of Dublin, who was an Englishman by birth and education. A few English bishops and priests fell in with it, but the hierarchy as a body opposed it, and the primate of Armagh excommunicated the primate of Dublin. One step led to an-

other during the reigns of Henry, Edward, Elizabeth, James the First and Charles the First, each one leaning more heavily upon the neck of religious liberty. Six counties in Ulster had been confiscated by James, because the Catholics of that province flew to arms and gained several battles over the English forces who went to drive the new creed down their throats. But now it was not Ulster alone but all Catholic Ireland which rose up and openly defied the whole power of England. Kilkenny was the headquarters, and hence the new organization was named "The Confederation of Kilkenny." A parliament, an executive, a mint, a formidable army conducted by noble and able generals, were soon established; diplomatists represented the Confederation at foreign courts, and France, Spain and Italy had representatives at the Confederation. For six or seven years the Confederation held this sovereign attitude, and Charles I commissioned his viceroy to grant the Catholics *their own* terms, which were nothing more than leave to worship God in the manner they deemed most acceptable to Him. These commissions were not carried out, and hostilities commenced. Inchiquin opposed the Catholics in Munster and Munroe was sent against Owen Roe O'Neill in Ulster. But Lord Castlehaven pursued Inchiquin with success, and Owen Roe completely broke Munroe at Benburb, the most signal victory in Ireland since the overthrow of Bagnall, Elizabeth's General, by Hugh O'Neill at the Yellow Ford.

The successes, then, were all at one side?

They were not. Their forces going to besiege Dublin were repulsed with great loss at Finglas, near the metropolis; and after the death of Owen Roe (the ablest commander in the kingdom,) and the murder of the king, Cromwell and Ireton came over and swept the east and south with an iron tempest, the former committing wholesale slaughter at Drogheda and Werford, sparing neither sex nor age, and the latter at Cashel, but both were manfully resisted at Kilkenny, Clonmel and Limerick. The confederates, however, obtained terms by the treaty of 1648, which after the death of Cromwell Charles II respected, and the Penal Laws enacted and enforced during the preceding reigns were suspended without having been repealed.

We come now to the Revolution of 1688, and I should like to know in what respect it differed from that just described, and which was so near it in point of time?

Both were alike in this respect—as being religious struggles; but they had very distinct political complexions. The latter was essentially an English quarrel which, by the force of circumstances, extended to Ireland, where it was settled forever on the banks of the Boyne. The former, as far as the Confederation was concerned, was exclusively Irish in its origin, career and issue.

Proceed.

James the Second succeeded Charles the Second on the throne of England, and, like Mary, was a Catholic; but, unlike Mary, he was not permitted to die a sovereign. In Mary's time the new religion was an infant which was not able to scrape its Catholic step-mother; but now it was a young giant that would not brook a step-father. In a word, James had to fly and the Prince of Orange, his son-in-law and a Protestant, was proclaimed king by the general voice of the English people. But the general voice of the Irish people was for James, who set up a rival court in Dublin where he was proclaimed king of Ireland. Thus for the first* time, since Rotherick O'Connor, England and Ireland had two kings. But this state of things did not last long. William of Orange was a brave man, while James II was pusilanimous, the former had a big army, the latter a small one. They met on the Boyne near Drogheda July 1st, 1690, and James was beaten.

What then became of him?

He deserted his cause and his friends by flying to France, while William followed up his first succes by going after the Irish army to the Shannon, on whose banks, at Athlone, Aughrim, and Limerick, other battles were fought with the utmost bravery on both sides. For two weeks, immediately after the Boyne, William kept hammering and charging at Limerick with heavy artillery and the flower of his army; but every charge was repulsed with disaster, and he had to give it

* We overlook the crowning of Edward Bruce at Dundalk in the time of Edward II.

up as a bad job. A few months of peace followed. The next year William's army besieged Limerick a second time, but with little better success, though the battle of Aughrim, which was very near having proved disastrous to William, had broken the backbone of the Irish army just before. At last, after a siege of five weeks the garrison obtained all that the Irish ever fought for—religious liberty and the enjoyment of their properties—and not only for themselves but for the whole nation.

What then became of the Irish army?

They had a choice to give up their arms and remain subjects of William or keep them and leave the country. They chose the latter almost to a man. Seventy ships were got ready by England to take them to France, and the treaty of Limerick stipulated that "such part of those garrisons as design to go beyond the seas shall march out with arms, baggage, drums beating, ball in mouth, match lighted at both ends, and colors flying." In this honorable way twenty thousand brave men left their country and kindred forever.

Had these military exiles ever after an opportunity of crossing arms with the British soldiery?

Yes, in several engagements during the continental wars which distracted the first half of the 18th century. They gained the great battle of Fontenoy for France, in 1745, which was regarded in England as a heavy blow, and is said to have made George II imprecate—"Cursed be the laws which have deprived me of such subjects!"

Come now to 1782—was this another bloody struggle?

It was not. It was one of the completest moral triumphs which one nation ever obtained over another. The solemn treaty of Limerick had been soon broken, the woolen manufacture was dying out since William pledged himself that he would do all in his power "to discourage the woolen manufacture in Ireland!" Irish merchants were forbidden to enter any market but that of Great Britain, and the acts of the Irish Parliament could be vetoed by that of England and even by the English Privy Council. Such was the state of the law in Ireland, which affected the Protestants as well as the Catholics, when similar tyranny at this side of the Atlantic compelled the Protestants of New England to fly to arms. Eng-

land was in a difficulty and was not able to protect Ireland in case of Invasion. This furnished a good pretext for the levying of the native forces named the "Irish Volunteers." They were Protestants, and England saw no danger in allowing arms to *them*. But she was greatly disappointed!

I thought you said that this was a moral not a military struggle?

Not one drop of blood was shed; and yet the Volunteers with arms in their hands, firmness in their hearts, and the eloquence of Grattan on their lips, obtained all they demanded!

What was that, pray?

The repeal of the commercial restrictions, the freedom of the seas, the appellant finalty of the Irish House of Lords, as respected the English House of Lords, the independence of the Irish House of Commons as respected the English Privy Council, and the unconditional abandonment by England "for ever," of all claim to make laws for Ireland. In a word, a complete separation of the two kingdoms, as far as that was possible, while the two kingdoms acknowledged the one King.

And did the English Parliament consent to pass such a law as that, after all the blood that had been shed to hold the country?

It did. The Act of Irish Legislative Independence, passed the two Houses of Parliament in Ireland, the two Houses of Parliament in England, and got the royal assent of George III, in 1782.

My curiosity is excited to know the result of all this?

The result was—unparalleled prosperity for eighteen years.

Well, what happened then?

The Act of Union, which abrogated the new state of things, overhauled all that had been done in '82, and made one "United Kingdom" of the three Kingdoms, by destroying the Irish Parliament!

And did the Irish Parliament and people consent to this?

The Parliament did, but the people did not; for the great majority of the latter having been Catholics, had no representation in that Parliament. Nor must I be understood as insinuating, that the Protestant population of the country consented to national suicide, for it was they, and not the Catholics, who had obtained that national independence now sought to be destroyed for ever.

How, then, was the Act of Union passed?

The Rebellion of 1798 was the pretext, money was the means, and the better security of the Empire the ostensible object. Catholics were still a proscribed class, though a few links of their chains were broken by the Irish Parliament in 1793. They were still excluded from the Legislature, and were consequently taxed without representation. The Irish Viceroy whose power is kingly, and influence over the fashionable circles of the country immense, has been always selected at the other side of the Irish sea, and imposed on the people, at this, without consulting them. About the time under consideration, this prerogative was exercised to the decided displeasure of all classes in Ireland. Some goading disappointments, legislative and administrative, were also pinching the people at the same time, and the influence of the recent French Revolution, disturbed all Europe as well as Ireland. The recollection of '82, also went to show, that the emphatic points of a petition sound better, when the barrel of a musket is behind them. Hence the "United Irishmen," who were to '98 what the Volunteers had been to '82. And it has been gravely asserted, how truly I can not say, that the British Government connived at the incipient movement for the purpose of having a pretext for recovering what was wrung from them in a moment of embarrassment, some years before.

Did any peculiar feature distinguish this revolt from those which preceded it?

It was not a religious war, like those just referred to; and it was not so general as either of the two last. Wexford and Down were the foci of its radiations; and Vinegar Hill, in the former county, the Bunker Hill of the struggle. Wolf Tone, Fitzgerald, and O'Connor, were the leading spirits, and Catholics, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians swelled the ranks.

What was the success of this movement?

It was put down, but not till the insurgents of Wexford had greatly alarmed the government by several local victories over the royal troops. The leaders had to fly, Magna Charta was suspended, Martial Law proclaimed; many were hanged, some shot, more banished. German mercenary troops rode rough shod over the people, and before the country had time to stand up, the Union Bill was forged!

What took place in 1829?

The repeal of the penal code against Irish Catholics, called "Catholic Emancipation,"—another bloodless victory, O'Connell being the Grattan of the movement; hence his title of "Liberator." Having thus blotted from the statute book, nearly all the acts written in red ink, against conscience, since Henry the Eighth, O'Connell hoped he could do the same with the act of Union. Till the Union Ireland had always a Parliament. And however hampered it was at times by the English Parliament and Privy Council, yet the latter had always to obtain the consent of the former before any bill became law in Ireland. By the Act of Union, this was no longer the case; for it transferred the legislative power to the British Parliament, sitting in London, over three hundred miles away from Ireland. In which Parliament the Irish representation was not, and is not a *fifth* of the whole. Thus the interests of the island were thrown into the hands of English, Scotch, and Welsh representatives, who are not supposed to know either the country or the people, and who are pledged to their own constituents, to consult their interests before those of any others. O'Connell, therefore, directed the battery of his formidable eloquence at the Act of Union, and so roused and arrayed, and marshaled the millions that he drew upon him and them in '43 and '44, the notice of the civilized world. The Government became alarmed, and "began to put their house in order," by fortifying their military posts, building barricades, boring loop-holes, and storing barracks with munitions of war. When thus secure, O'Connell and his prominent assistants were arrested, tried, convicted, and sent to jail!

How did the millions bear this?

With boiling but suppressed indignation, and no power on earth could have prevented the bloodiest of civil convulsions but O'Connell himself, whose motto was "who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy."

Was not Father Mathew's moral revolution at the same time?

It was. It began to attract notice in '41; and O'Connell, himself, went on his knees and took the total abstinence pledge from the greatest moral reformer of modern times. The two movements though quite distinct, and apart had a bearing on

each other and constituted a social phenomenon of the sublimest character.

What took place in '48?

Another French Revolution, which agitated all the continent and precipitated the "Young Ireland" movement—a movement very similar to that of '98. Seeing that "moral force" agitation was not realizing the promises of O'Connell, and that the Government allowed famine and pestilence to sweep off the people in '46 and '47, by thousands, a Confederation of patriots advocated a resort to arms, for which, they risked family, property, liberty and life. It is not necessary to say more on events so recent.

Such is a skeleton map of Irish history, as I understand it.

MUNSTER.

CHAPTER XLVIII.—EXTENT, POPULATION, EDUCATION, ETC.

I will now thank you to dwell a while in each of the four provinces, that, by a closer acquaintance with the parts, we may have a completer knowledge of the whole?

Be it so; and as Munster is not only the largest of those provinces but was, previous to the English connexion, the most powerful, let us take it first,

What, then, is the situation and extent of Munster?

Being the southern quarter, it has advantages in point of climate and vegetation, over the other provinces. I have already given (page 60) its first parallel of latitude, and its last extends eleven miles beyond the 53°. But its longest straight line is from Waterford Haven to the Dingle coast, something over 140 miles.

How many acres constitute this territory?

Over six millions; precisely 6,064,579, covering 9,476 square miles.

Is not this province as large as some independent countries?

Connecticut is not half as large as Munster. It exceeds Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, or Maryland. Yet every one of these is a sovereign state. In Europe there are over a dozen independent territories, no one of which can approach Munster in extent. Overlooking the little Republics

of San Marino, Andora, Lucca, and the Ionian Islands, each of which is independent, making its own laws, but so small, that if all were put together, they would not make a fourth part of the Irish province, the electorate of Hesse Cassel or that of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, is not half the size of it. Parma, Modena, Nassau, Brunswick, Saxe Weimer, Saxe Coburg Gotha, Hesse Darmstadt, and Oldenburgh, are all independent European States, but altogether not as large as Munster! Munster is seventeen hundred square miles larger than the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and by a still greater difference it exceeds the kingdom of Wurtemburgh!

How is this province bounded?

On the south and west by the ocean, on the north by Connaught, and east by Leinster; the boundary lines being partly physical, and partly civil, that is, river and "imaginary."

What was the population of this province immediately, before the late famine?

In 1841, near two and half millions, about that of Scotland, or the state of New York, the most populous of the United States. The sexes were thus related:

Males, - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,186,190
Females, - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,209,976
	2,396,161

and the number of familis under half a million, 415,154. During the ten years from '31 to '41, about eight hundred thousand children were born in that province.

What is the state of education in the south of Ireland?

The Census of '41 shows that the number of those who could then read and write, was less in Munster than in Ulster or Leinster; notwithstanding, that the population of the southern province was the greatest. Only *one* individual in every four, according to the Munster census, had attained that degree of knowledge; but it must not be forgotten, that infants and children under the school age are included. And if we confine our view to the female side of the question, it is still more reproachful, as only 185,018, out of the above twelve hundred thousand, could read and write; in other words, only *one* in every *six* or *seven!*

Is female education more forward in that province now?

It certainly is, as the Irish National School system has since spread to a vast extent. This system was founded in 1831, and was, therefore, in its tights when the Census just quoted from, was instituted. Before '31 there was no system of national education in Ireland. This and the poverty of the working classes explain the social phenomenon. In connexion with these facts, it is rather noticeable that Munster has far surpassed the other provinces, leaving out the metropolis, in the number and status of its historical celebrities. Robert Boyle preceded Newton, by whom alone, in British Biography, he is equaled in the department of experimental philosophy. "He exceeded Bacon," says Cudworth, "in natural experiments." Boyle was born and educated in Munster, and, like Lord Ross, gave his native spot the glory of his great inquiries into nature.

Into how many counties is this province apportioned?

Six—Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick and Waterford. The city of Cork is the capital of the province.

CHAPTER XLIX. — CORK.

Does anything sufficiently particular remain to be seen in these counties to repay us for a special visit to each?

Certainly. Some of the towns have natural, historical and monumental associations which are best understood on the spot. The counties are not mere arbitrary subdivisions, determined by the broadest river or the highest chain of hills. Some of them are socially very distinct, and almost all are based upon pre-existent and corresponding apportionments, dating far beyond the English connexion.

Apply those remarks to the county of Cork, for instance.

If nature alone were to determine the size of this county, it is obvious it would not extend beyond the Blackwater. It is nearly identical with the ancient Desmond, about the time of Henry II, when it was a sovereign state, governed, as it had been from time immemorial, by the powerful family of MacCarthy. King John attempted to bring it within the Pale by ranking it as an English shire, in 1210; and English writers love to style it, on account of its extent, "the Yorkshire of

Ireland." At present, this county is larger than several German Principalities, than Delaware in these States, and twice the extent of Rhode Island.

Name the principal towns in this section of Munster.

The city of Cork, Youghal, Mallow, Bandon, Kinsale, and Fermoy. Besides which there are several good towns: in the the north Charleville, Buttevant, Doneraile, Newmarket, Kanturk, Mitchelstown; in the south, Rathcormack, Macroom, Dunmanway, Cove, Middleton, Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Clonakilty, Rosscarbury, Baltimore, Skibbereen, Bantry, and Castletown, with a great number of villages, some of which rank as market and post towns, and are little inferior to some just named; for instance, Kilworth, Castletown-Roache, Castle Lyons, Liscarrol, Millstreet, Passage, and Blarney.

What place does Cork hold among modern cities?

A very respectable one; but its situation is low, and the Lee, by which the greater part of the city is surrounded, does sometimes considerable damage when that river is swollen with rains and mountain torrents. In former times an extensive swamp in this locality obtained for it the name Cork, which in the Irish language means "marsh." The city is said to have been founded by the Danes in the 9th century, but as the see of a bishop it dates two centuries earlier, that is from the time of St. Finbar. At present it has all the features of a capital: extensive stores and warehouses, spacious streets, picturesque terraces, shady walks, and some good public buildings. Its benevolent and educational institutions are little inferior to those of Dublin. One of the three colleges which constitute the Queen's University in Ireland is here; the other two being in Belfast and Galway. Till recently Cork was perhaps the greatest provision outlet in the British Isles, slaughtering and exporting annually as many as one hundred thousand head of cattle, with a vast number of hogs—another Cincinnati. As a manufacturing town it has also fallen off since the Union; yet its foreign and home trade is still very extensive, its distilleries are celebrated, and as a butter market it is the first in the island.

What is the present population of Cork?

Over one hundred thousand, or one-seventh that of the entire county, which in 1841 stood at 773,398. On entering Cork

for the first time, the stranger is at once struck with the peculiarity of "accent," which is so very different from that of the adjoining counties. It is a rising inflection of the last word or syllable in a sentence, and appears to me both musical and significant. Music, painting, literature, and the "professions" are greatly indebted to this city, whose historic celebrities are neither few nor far between, and will be amply noticed hereafter in this publication, if room permit.

Which is the second town in this county, in point of importance?

Youghal, situated at the mouth of the great Blackwater, and consequently in a natural position of the first importance. The frith of the river is here the natural boundary between the counties of Cork and Waterford. The harbor is naturally deep and safe, and has been perhaps the greatest corn outlet in the south. Previous to the Union, the woolen manufacture flourished here, and the plastic clays of the locality have been taken advantage of by the erection potteries.

Any historical associations of interest connected with this town?

Very many. It has always been an English stronghold, since its foundation by a colony from Bristol, and consequently came in for its share of the civil wars. In the great Desmond rebellion it took the side of the crown, but was finally taken and the mayor hanged. Its opposition to Cromwell was also owing to its loyalty to the crown; but he took it as a matter of course, and having made it his headquarters for a time, embarked here for England. At one time Catholics were interdicted from buying or selling in the markets of Youghal. This town is celebrated as the residence of Sir Walter Raleigh, and as the first place in Ireland where the potato was planted, having been introduced by that remarkable traveler. The introduction of the cherry and the canary bird from the Canary Islands, is also attributed to Raleigh and to Youghal. Raleigh was not a native of this place, but more than one of the celebrated Boyles were, which family purchased his large estates in this quarter.

What class of town is Mallow?

"The Irish Bath" is situated on the Blackwater, and is an inland town of much importance. Its medicinal waters have

been long celebrated as some of the first in the island. It was a stronghold of the Desmonds, and suffered much during the civil wars of the 17th century.

Respecting Bandon?

Another anti-Irish Irish town. The first of the Boyles, better known as the great Earl of Cork, was said to have amassed his vast estates as much by laying out as by bringing in. He lavished a princely fortune on buildings, and the town of Bandon is one of them. It is therefore a modern place, dating in its present state from 1610. It is situated on a good stream, the Bandon river, not far from its junction with the ocean, and near the town is a good chalybeate. Having suffered during the Revolution for its opposition to James II, no Catholic was allowed for a long while to live within its walls.

Where is Kinsale?

Not far from the last named, and at the mouth of the same river. Kinsale, therefore, is better situated for commerce, and having a magnificent harbor, has been often used as a naval depot in time of war. Hence its many investments by hostile fleets; the Spaniards took it, the great Marlborough took it, and Cromwell took it. The DeCourcy family, a branch of the Ulster DeCourcys of Norman extraction, early settled in this district, and has invested its modern history with some biographical interest. The head of this family, during the struggle between James and William, opposed the latter, and some time after wore his hat at the royal levee in the presence of the king—a liberty which the usurper took as an insult, as not conceded even to dukes. Demanding an explanation, his Majesty learned that this was an heir-loom privilege, as old as his predecessor John, by whom it was granted to the conqueror of Ulster. A nod of assent recognized its then exercise, and DeCourcy uncovered.

I see by the map Fermoy, as well as Youghal and Mallow, is on the Blackwater?

This, too, is a modern town, founded on the site of an ancient village, whose history goes back to the era of Druidism, of which some traces are yet to be seen in the locality. The name Fermoy (Fear Magh) in the Irish language means "sacred plain."

Of the remaining towns in this county what is worth recalling?

Charleville, (Charles' Town) another modern place, dating from about the same period as Bandon, and due to a Charles Boyle, as the name imports. Being more central than Cork or Youghal, its founder, when President of Munster, made it the seat of the Presidency, the better to watch the Earls of Desmond, who ruled almost absolute in Kerry, and often defied the sovereign. Buttevant (*Boutez en avant*—"push forward,") is said to be so called only since the arrival of the Norman family DeBarry, whose French motto means "push forward," and who early encountered the MacCarthys in this quarter, where they soon obtained large possessions. It was formerly called Kilnemullagh, (Church of Muliagh) which name is retained in Spenser, whose castle of Kilcolman and "beautiful Mullagh" are in this locality. The place is poor but venerable, with grand ecclesiastical and feudal ruins.

Macroom is another venerable place, possessing Pagan, Christian, Danish, and military reliques of deep historical interest. Dunmanway is said to be the first place in Munster where the linen manufacture flourished, because encouraged by the historian Cox, who lived here. Middleton, (Middle Town,) Castlemartyr, and Cloyne, (Cluain, "sequestered,") situated between Cork and Youghal, are quite convenient, projecting this little promontory with many points of interest. Ross and Cloyne are ancient sees now united to that of Cork. Baltimore, though now an unimportant place, has given its name to the capital of Maryland, in these States. Skibbereen, Bantry, and Castletown, as well as the last named, are all on the south-west coast, and places of little business and less commerce. Near Castletown was the Castle of Dunboy, which occupies so prominent a place in the history of Munster, as the residence of the O'Sullivan Beare, whose resistance to the Reformation and the Pale was so obstinate, so romantic, and so deeply tragic.

CHAPTER L.—KERRY.

Let us now go to Kerry, for I see by page 63 it is the second largest county in Munster.

And the fifth in Ireland. The name "Kerry" (in Irish

Ciaruidhe,) means "rocky country on the water;" and is thus most appropriately applied to a territory which has the highest mountains in the country, and stretches farthest to the Atlantic. Formerly, however, this name specially applied to only a part, now a distinct barony, of this district, just as the present name of the northern province was formerly limited to the eastern part of it, now named Down but anciently Ulladh, whence "Ulster."

I see by the map that the boundary lines of Kerry are mostly pointed out by nature?

True: mountains and rivers on the south and east separate it from Cork and Limerick, the Shannon estuary on the north parts it from Clare, and the ocean from America, notwithstanding the long arm of the Cable that *was*.

Having got a glance at the physical features of this county more than once during these dialogues, I shall now thank you for such other facts as will inform me respecting its history.

Kerry had the high distinction of having been a county palatine; that is, an independent state under the crown. Its westerly situation and mountain character imparted to it, in the eyes of the far-off Pale, a feature of isolation which called for a local resident executive with discretionary power. The little sovereignty was placed under a wing of the house of Leinster, as a high mark of the royal esteem for the noble family of Fitzgerald But this wing having felt the mountain breeze of the "rocky territory," flapped right in the face of the power that placed it there, for purposes which it would not subserve. It opposed the Reformation while a man was left, in consequence of which the palatinate of Kerry was blotted from the map of Ireland. History of higher romance and deeper interest than that alluded to, it would be hard to find.

What ancient Irish families possessed this territory?

The MacCarthy's, the O'Donohue's, the O'Connor's, the MacGillicuddy's, the O'Connell's, &c., and descendants of those are still in possession of large estates in their native Ciaruidhe, and a few have their ancient titles recognized, for instance "the MacGillicuddy of the Reeks," "the O'Connor Kerry," "the O'Donohue of the Glens," and at the monster meeting on Tara Hill in 1843, a scolloped cap in the shape of the Irish

crown, was placed upon the head of the great leader as "The O'Connell."

What English families have taken a foot-hold in Kerry?

The Fitzgerald's, the Trant's, the Denny's, the Fitzmaurice's, and the Crosby's are the principal. Kerry ranks now as an earldom, giving title to the family of Fitzmaurice, which has recently declined the offer, to have it elevated to a duchy, during the Premiership of Lord Palmerston.

Is there anything peculiar in the social aspect of Kerry at the present hour.

The Irish language is still the medium of expression in four-fifths of the county. The old folks pray in it, the young make love and labor in it, urchins play in it, and the priest preaches in it. It was also the language of the old Earls of Desmond, before and after their overthrow, and for which they almost forgot the Anglo-Saxon. This county has been long distinguished for the cultivation of the Greek and Latin Classics even among the peasantry.

What is the population of this county?

About a quarter of a million, near all Roman Catholics, from Lord Kenmare down to "Paddy Blake."

Can the towns of Kerry be favorably compared with those of Cork, in number or population?

Far from it; Tralee, Dingle, Killarney, Listowel, Castle Island, and Kenmare, being the only towns deserving the name, and a couple of these same being little better than villages. Tralee and Dingle, however, are stirring places, the last being also the most westerly town in Ireland. Tralee (Tragh-Leigh) on the little river Leigh or Lee, is a seaport with a naturally bad harbor, being so shallow that a canal had to be run from the town to deep water. In the Irish language *tragh* means strand hence Tramore (big strand,) Tralee, (Lee strand.) But the bay and harbor of Dingle are spacious and deep. This name imports "fortress," and Dingle, as such, suffered much, with almost every place in Kerry during the civil wars. This whole district may be called, on this account, the La Vendee of Ireland, the west of France not having suffered more.

CHAPTER LI.—TIPPERARY.

Of the third largest county in Munster, what remains to be said?

This very striking fact should get the first place—*in ten years, from* 1841 *to* 1851, *it is shown by the Census returns of both years, that more than sixteen thousand "houses," that is, cots and cabins were demolished in the county of Tipperary alone!* One year with another, the exact number of hearths quenched, and roof-trees pulled down annually in that single county, was 1,674; which, multiplied by ten, give 16,740 for the decade, in precise figures, supplied by Government authority itself!

Am I to understand that this frightful diminution of dwellings represents a corresponding diminution of the population?

I will offer no comment upon a fact so plainly expressed and of such magnitude. I am justified, however, in stating another fact from the same authority, which may answer your question—in 1851 the number of human beings in Tipperary was *less* than the number in 1841 by a difference of *one hundred thousand souls!*

Can you offer any explanation of a social phenomenon so awful?

It is not peculiar to this county except, perhaps, in a shade of degree. The population of all Ireland, locally and aggregately, diminished during those ten years, if not in the ratio of Tipperary, as just referred to, at all events, in a very similar way, and in a sufficiently awful degree. The population of Tipperary was reported, in the first named year, at 435,000, and in ten years after, as less by the one-tenth of a million; which shows that one out of every four, with one for *every mother's soul born in the meantime*, in the county, either went down to the grave, or went out of the territory! And one-fourth is about the ratio of diminution for the whole country in the respect under consideration.

Why, then, select this locality to notice what is not peculiar to it?

Because the demolition of homesteads by landlords, and the resentment of such by the people, have characterized this county for many years, causing it to be regarded by one class

as notoriously turbulent, but by another as famously patriotic.

Respecting the history of Tipperary?

Like Kerry, Tipperary was a county palatine, and these were the only two in the south of Ireland. The latter gave title of Duke to the House of Ormond, in which the jurisdiction of the palitinate was vested, as a return for the long loyalty of the Butler family, between which and the Fitzgeralds of Desmond, the most implacable enmity subsisted to the continual distraction of the whole province for generations.

Was Ormond, then, the former name for this county?

The ancient Ormond (that is, east Munster,) comprehended a part of the present Kilkenny, while a part of the present Tipperary would appear to have been included in the ancient Thomond or north Munster. The name Ormond is still retained as that of two baronies in the North Riding of Tipperary.

This is the first mention I have yet heard of territorial divisions named "ridings?"

When a county is large it is convenient to split it into two or three judicial divisions, for the better administration of the law; and these are called ridings, of which there are two in this county, containing 12 baronies, divided into 193 parishes.

What ancient Irish families owned this territory?

The O'Briens, the Fogarties, the O'Dwyers, the O'Kennedys, the MacEgans, the Heffernans, the O'Ryans and the Sullivans; but these last early migrated to the mountains of Bantry, where they were assigned by the MacCarthy's, the promontory north of Bantry Bay, and the island of Beare, and here they hoped to escape for ever, the civil convulsions which drove them from their native plains.

What English families settled here?

The Butlers, the Mathews, the Purcels the Pennefathers, and many others. The Mathew family has given us the great moral reformer of our generation.

CHAPTER LII.—TOWNS IN TIPPERARY.

Are there any good towns in the county?

Several; in the South Riding—Clonmel, Carrick, Tipperary, Cashel, Fethard, Cahir, Killenaule, with the important village

of Golden, and many of less note, in the North—Nenagh, Roscrea, Templemore, Thurles, Newport, with Borrisoleigh and other villages.

Can these places hold a favorable comparison with the chief towns already spoken of?

Yes, with all but one. Clonmel is the most important inland town in Ireland, with one or two exceptions—Kilkenny and (perhaps) Armagh. The cities of Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, whose importance is obviously due to their maratime position, and splendid harbors, are the only towns in Munster before Clonmel. In an agricultural sense, the fall of some of the most productive lands in the south of Ireland, is into this town. Like the city of Glou'ster, in England, Clonmel is an inland port, the Suir being to the latter what the Severn is to the former, admitting boats of considerable burden a long way inland.

Historically what of it?

We have already seen its opposition to Cromwell, but it must not be omitted, that an O'Neill with Tyrone auxiliaries, was in the town upon that occasion. Clonmel is very ancient, and has produced some eminent writers. Here Charles Bianconi, the celebrated Italian conveyancer, held the reins of his long lines of civilizing caravans, before it was known in Ireland that a coach could run without something like a horse.

Is Carrick next to Clonmel?

It is and it is not: it is in point of neighborhood, but it is not in point of importance. Nenagh, in the far north, is next to Clonmel in size and business, being the assize town and capital of the North Riding. It is situated on a stream which borrows its name and falls into Lough Derg. Its position on the Shannon, may have been the cause of its early occupation by the English; for it has been an English garrison almost since their arrival. It was burned by the incensed natives on the 26th Dec., 1348, and soon after, under the leadership of an O'Brien, they overthrew the enemy led on by an Earl of Desmond. "Arra" was the ancient name of this district, which belonged to a branch of the O'Brien's called, thence, O'Brien of Arra, to distinguish them from the O'Brien's of Thomond and Lumneach (Limerick.)

In our sixth dialogue you excited my curiosity respecting the Rock of Cashel.?

Cashel was the ancient metropolis of Munster, and is still its ecclesiastical capital in the polity of Catholicism; the bishops of Cork, Limerick and Waterford, being suffragans of the Arch-bishop of Cashel. The kings of Munster, who were pretty alternately derived from the two principal families, the O'Briens of Thomond, and McCarthys of Desmond, were always crowned here, and from this ruled the two Munsters, that is, Mumhan proper, and Hy Kinsella, now Leinster. It was, therefore, a place of the first political importance in those times, as the ruins of the royal capitol still testify. These ruins are on a great rock or isolated hill, about a mile in circumference, very steep at one side, but sloping at the other, and rising with imposing abruptness out of the level plain. They consist of a round tower, one of the few still perfect, and one of the highest, a vast cathedral pile, a "pagan" temple, some square towers and castellated wings, with the coronation stone and portal outposts or domestic offices. The tower rises 120 feet above the summit of the hill, and is as perfect, to all appearance, as in the century it was built, how long before or after the introduction of Christianity—"that is the question." The Cathedral aspires to the same eminence but not *pre*-eminence, as its age of some six centuries, is pretty generally understood. But the "pagan" temple, better known as "King Carmac's Chapel," is the great curiosity and the great puzzle. If built before St. Patrick, the theory about the era of stone buildings in Ireland, is knocked in the head, and we stand amazed at the civilization which has sent this cut-stone challenge down to the vauntful nineteenth century—such is its masonry, its figure sculpture, its chisel tracery, and fretwork. If built during the Christian period of our history, the puzzle is worse, as who can answer the plain practical question—*Cui bono?**. For the best description of these grand objects, and the most learned inquiry into this interesting question, I beg to refer you to Doctor Petrie's great work on Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture.

What kind of a place is Cashel now?

A nominal city of seven thousand souls, with some good shops, a few wealthy men, and the only town in the county, besides Clonmel, enjoying the parliamentary franchise. But

* To what purpose?

this privilege is merely a compliment to its antiquity and former importance, as several of its neighboring towns exceed it in population and wealth. Cashel is now a poor place. Its gentry is gone, and even the neighboring farmers take their produce to Clonmel and Tipperary, a distance of some 12 Irish miles.* It is two miles from the nearest river, which is felt as a standing calamity. It has, therefore, no mills and no manufactures, except that of tobacco, in which, however, it excels.

Are there any other ecclesiastical or civil ruins in this county worth the traveler's attention?

Several, but those of Holy Cross are the principal. Holy Cross is a village on the Suir between Cashel and Thurles, but nearer the latter. There is nothing externally attractive about this grand remnant of the past; it is its internal beauty which is so admired holding, as it does, the first place for sculpture embellishments of any Christian ruin in the country. It dates from the 12th century, and is attributed to the piety of Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, in honor of the Savior's Cross, a veritable piece of which, is said to have been sent to his predecessor, by Pope Pascall II, about 1110. Emly is still more ancient as a place of piety. It is situated near the borders of the county of Limerick, and is remarkable as being one of the very few places in which Christianity was taught and practiced in this kingdom, before St. Patrick. St. Ailbe founded the see of Emly, which has been long united to that of Cashel. The village is now a gloomy collection of poor cottages.

Do the other towns of Tipperary call for our special notice?

Tipperary, Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, Thurles and Templemore, are thriving places, of considerable business, each about the size of Cashel but more stirring. The first named has an extensive trade in butter; Thurles is the residence of the Catholic arch-bishop of Cashel, and the site of a Catholic college, which is an ornament to the town. It is also celebrated for a great victory over the Danes. Fethard is very ancient and still defended by walls and gates. Killenaule is the smallest town of those just named, and romantically situated among hills where many an outlaw has found protection. In this neigh-

* Eleven Irish miles are equal to fourteen English, which is also called "statute (act of Parliament) measure."

borhood are the Tipperary collieries; and in a bog near Callan, was found in the last century, a cap or crown of gold, with other reliques of intrinsic value materially and historically. Near Golden, Father Mathew was born, in the parish of Thomastown and townland of Abbey-Greene, so called from the proprietor of the soil and to distinguish it from the adjacent townland of Abbey-Athassil, where other and most extensive ecclesiastical ruins are to be seen. The grand Castle-mansion of Thomastown, built in the last century by Thomas Mathew, who is mentioned in Sheridan's Life of Swift and in Wilson's Wonderful Characters, is also here. Roscrea is another venerable spot with a massive round tower and religious ruins. It had been once a city whose episcopal jurisdiction was transferred, in the 12th century, to the see of Killaloe.

CHAPTER LIII.—CLARE.

Does not Clare belong to the western province by nature?

So it does, and was anciently a part of that principality, but has been added to Munster by conquest. It was then called "Thomond," which signifies North Munster. The English found it within the boundaries of the southern province, and left it so. *Judicially,* however, it is included in the Connaught circuit.

I see by your statistical tables it is nearly half waste.

The surface of a great part of this county is stony and rugged. It has many hills, though of no great height, several small lakes, some bogs, and some woods. The soil, though generally light, is fruitful and in some places deep and rich. This county produces the largest and best horses in Ireland.

Historically?

Historically, it has always been the territory of the O'Brien family and, in a great measure, is still. The ancient Dalgais, of whose military exploits so much is said in the pre-Anglo history of the country, belonged to Thomond. Moore immortalizes them in the melody last quoted from,

> "While the moss of the valley grew red with their blood,
> They stirred not, but conquered and died."

This county derives its present name from the Gloucester fam-

ily, DeClare, since the time of Edward I; to which family that prince, with the usual pretensions to justice, transferred it.

What other families besides the O'Briens and Clares have possessed this territory?

Of Celtic blood—MacNamara, MacMahon, O'Laughlin, O'Grady, O'Gorman, O'Quinn, were the principal; of Norman and British—Fitzgerald, Vandeleur, &c.

Are the towns of Clare as numerous and important as those of Tipperary?

They are not. Ennis, Kilrush and Killaloe are the principal; Ennistymon, Miltown-malbay, Gort, Kilfenora and Corrofin, the largest villages.

Is Ennis the shire town?

It is, and most favorably situated for trade at the junction of the Fergus and the Shannon, which is here some eight or nine miles wide. Kilrush is a favorite watering place, and Killaloe (Kille da Lua, "Church of Lua,") an ancient bishopric founded in the 6th century by St. Molua. Kilfenora is another ancient bishopric, united to the last named and to that of Roscrea, in Tipperary, under the one miter. Near Killaloe are the Shannon Falls and salmon fisheries, and at this picturesque spot stood the famous Kinkora, the palace of Boru, and "local habitation" of the O'Briens. The ruins of this celebrated mausoleum are still to be seen, and at Ennis, Kilfenora and other places in this county, are noble testimonies of Thomond piety.

CHAPTER LIV.—LIMERICK.

For what is Limerick most remarkable?

Naturally, for the depth and richness of its soil—industrially, for its dairy and butter produce—historically for its Druidic associations and grey ruins. This county has produced many celebrated characters.

What is the population of this county?

About the same as that of Clare or Kerry—near 300,000, grouped into forty-seven thousand families, which allows six souls to every family on an average.

Respecting the city of Limerick?

It is the fourth in Ireland and about the eleventh in the three kingdoms, though a hundred years ago it was regarded as second to Dublin alone of the Irish cities, and second to no seaport in Europe as a fortress. Like many other places in this distracted nation, it consists of an "Irishtown" and an "Englishtown," the latter on an island in the Shannon, connected with the former by a massive stone bridge. In the last century the woolen, linen, and paper manufactures were extensively carried on here. It is now celebrated for its tobacco and for its lace and gloves, which dispute the foreign market with those of Belgium. A lady wanting a pair of Limerick gloves enters a shop and is handed a nut which might be cracked between the teeth—within are the robes which must cover two palms and ten fingers!

When was the see of Limerick founded?

In the early days of Celtic Christianity by St. Munchen. The crozier of Limerick is now wielded over a great part of Kerry.

Had the Danes possession of this city?

It was one of their greatest strongholds, and consequently received many a hot visit from the surrounding Dalgais. Brien Boru is said to have exacted 365 tuns of wine from the Northmen of this one city. Perhaps no town in Ireland has been so often attacked. In the fifty years ending 1691 it had to withstand four heavy sieges; in the second by Ireton, son-in-law of Cromwell, wholesale slaughter was committed, which, however, the monster himself did not long survive, having died a miserable death with the shrieks of his victims in his ears.

Which are the other towns of this county?

Kilmallock, Askeaton, Rathkeale, Abbeyfeale and Bruff, with the villages of Newcastle, Kilteely, Bruree, Adair, Hospital, Oola and Kilmeedy.

Are these places of any present or historical importance?

A few of them are flourishing country towns, and nearly all are remarkable for hoary monuments of by-gone glory. Kilmallock far inland, Askeaton and Rathkeale on the Deal, Adair on the Maig, and others are grey with ruins. Kilmallock has so many that it is distinguished as "the Irish Balbeck." At Adair was a celebrated oak held in great veneration by our

Druidic ancestors, the cutting down of which plunged the province into a bloody war. Bruree was the rendezvous of the Munster bards, whose last session took place in 1760; but the Welsh keep up this custom to the present day. At Newcastle, as also at Cappoquin in Waterford and on the Blackwater in Cork, were branches of the Knights Templars, which fell with the parent trunk about the middle of the 14th century, upon the suppression of the order by the Council of Vienna.

CHAPTER LV.—WATERFORD.

We come now to the last, because the smallest, of the Munster counties.

Waterford, in proportion to its extent, grows more timber than any other county in Ireland, if we may judge by the percentage of each county under plantation, which in this province is as follows;

Waterford, 5.07	Cork, 2.08	Clare, 1.00
Tipperary, 2.24	Limerick, 1.07	Kerry, .98

Please explain those allusions.

Every hundred parts (call them acres) of Waterford contain over five under plantation, of Tipperary not quite two and a quarter, of Kerry not all out one. Thus the coarse parts of Waterford, of which there are a good many, appear to be well economised.

Historically, what is this county remarkable for?

In an eminent degree for learning. In modern, as well as in ancient times, it has produced very eminent men in the literary line. About two hundred years ago it sent out a most extraordinary character named Greatrex, who did things which astonished the three kingdoms, but which can not be entered into here, as they come under a distinct department of this publication—the biographical.

In ancient times did this district belong to Desmond, Thomond, or Ormond?

The present county of Waterford appears to have been entirely included in the old Munster Decies, which was not bounded on the north by the Suir, and therefore might have

been partly in Ormond, as it was mostly in Desmond. This old name "Decies" is still preserved, like almost all the old territorial denominations, in a local and limited way; it is now applied to one of the baronies.

What class of city is Waterford?

One of about thirty thousand people with some manufactures, especially glass, and a large trade in provisions. It ranks next to Limerick in every respect; and before the rise of Liverpool and Belfast, Waterford, like Bristol, looked more important. Waterford was the principal port of embarkation for England and France before Liverpool threw Bristol into the shade, and that is so lately as within the last thirty years, and thus the migration tide has been turned to Dublin. In the last century "upwards of seventy sail of shipping" were employed in the provision trade of this port with Newfoundland alone, the slaughter of hogs having been "three thousand per week, for many weeks together," and the exportation of butter "from sixty to eighty thousand casks per annum."

How is this city situated?

On the Suir near its junction with the united Barrow and Nore, the three forming an excellent harbor to which a magnificent quay has greatly added. The name Waterford* may, therefore, have a similar derivation to that of Clarisford,(Clare's ford) a town in Clare where was the only ford or passage across the Shannon, between Thomond and Ormond, when the De Clares usurped that district. Waterford was also called Port Largy, (Leargi) literally meaning "seaport."

Has this city been the scene of any remarkable events?

It is said to have been founded by the Danes; at any rate, it was a Danish stronghold while the Northmen remained on the island and, as such, was several times sacked by the Irish, in particular by Brien Boru when king of Cashel. It has been an English garrison too since Strongbow and Henry II landed at this spot. By a late act of parliament, the archdiocese of Cashel has been reduced to the level of ordinary

*Of the thirty-two counties only half a dozen have English names—Waterford, Wexford, Longford, Clare, Kings county, and Queens county. Those of all the others are Irish and beautifully significant. The prefix "London" is not recognized here in the name of Derry.

dioceses, and placed under the crozier of Waterford in the Established Church.

Is Lismore historically remarkable?

Very much so. In the golden age of Scotia Major, long before the English Invasion, there was a famous university here to which the English and Saxons flocked, and where, as also in Mayo, they were fed and educated gratis. This is a well attested fact, acknowledged by English writers, and by such of the foreign alumni themselves as have left their names in history, for instance Alfred of England. In more recent times, Lismore has given the world Robert Boyle. Sixteen Dalys of Thomond are said to have figured as poets, but the world has not pronounced to what degree; while near a dozen of the Boyles of Lismore are the property of universal biography. Lismore is a bishopric since the seventh century, when it was founded by St. Carthagh, but it is long united to that of Waterford. Its high prestige was greatly slurred about a century and a half ago by its then legal bishop, who was imported from the other side of the channel, and disgraced not only our common Christianity, but even our common *humanity*, by crimes which can't be named! He was tried and "hanged by the neck till dead!" It is a coincidence which I have not yet seen noticed, that the present rule of the celebrated Mount Mellary which is in this neighborhood, forbidding all use of flesh to its religious, but giving it plentifully to strangers, seems to have been also the monastic discipline of St. Carthagh's more celebrated establishment, in this same quarter, twelve centuries ago.

Are the remaining towns remarkable in any particular?

Dungarven is the greatest fish-port in the province, if not in the kingdom. Tramore (tragh more—"big strand,") is the Brighton of the south. And Cappoquin, at the elbow of the Blackwater, is one of the many towns in this province taken from the English for the Confederation, by Lord Castlehaven, in the great Insurrection of 1645.*

*Such is a glance at the fine province of Munster, which occupies so prominent a place in the whole history of the island.

ULSTER.

CHAPTER LVI.—PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL PECULIARITIES.

Which is the second-largest province in Ireland?

Ulster, whose precise area is 5,475,438 acres, or a little more than 8,555 square miles, near a fifth of which (page 62) is occupied by mountain wastes, bogs and lakes. This province is the northern quarter of the island, and is surrounded by the ocean on all sides, save on the south, where it is bounded by Leinster and Connaught. It extends about thirty-five miles beyond Leinster to the east and is, consequently, the nearest part of Ireland to Great Britain.

What, then, is the east longitude of Ireland?

The east longitude of Ulster and the west longitude of Munster are those of Ireland; the former is 50′ from the first meridian passing through Dublin at Trinity College Observatory, the latter 4½° from said meridian.

What is the most distinctive physical aspect of this province?

Entering it from Leinster, you are at once impressed with its rolling and hilly character, and proceeding further you meet its great lakes and land-locked bays, namely, Loughs Neagh, Erne, Strangford, Foyle, &c. The lakes alone taking up 214,956 acres of its surface!

Has it any social feature equally distinctive?

It has—that conferred on it by the linen industry, which is now almost entirely monopolized by this province, though at one time Munster was far before it in this respect. In consequence, there is less poverty and the social extremes less broad in the north, than in the south, west, or even east of the country. Connected with this is also another social feature—the great number of small farms into which much of this province is cut up, many thousands of them not exceeding five acres each, while the number having no larger holding than fifteen acres and no smaller than one, exceed two hundred thousand. Perhaps the explanation is to be found in the fact that, generally speaking, all the small farmers are also manufacturers, the spade and the loom being in almost every rural cot in whole districts.

Any other social peculiarity belonging to this quarter?

Yes, Ulster has by far the largest Protestant population of the four provinces, the vast majority of the Irish people being Catholics. The professors of the Church of England, however, are in a very small minority in Ulster, perhaps more so than in any other section of the country; the Church of Rome and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterianism) claiming, in about equal numbers, five-sixths of all the Ultonians. Another feature of Ulster is the Orange organization (so called in honor of William III, Prince of Orange,) whose ostensible object is to maintain church and state in Ireland, but whose practical results have been—the periodical manufacture of broken heads, widows and orphans. The Irish Orangeman is the looking-glass of the American Know-Nothing. But a social feature of Ulster more agreeable to look upon is, that of tenant-right—a right legalized by venerable custom entitling an ejected tenant to the value of his permanent improvements and the sale of his "good-will" to his in-coming successor, which the latter pays for most freely, without any act of legislation to compel him.

Is not this the custom elswhere in Ireland?

It is not. Elsewhere in Ireland the tenant-at-will is turned out upon "the wide, wide world" whenever his landlord or agent pleases to seize all his improvements, though they should include the reclaiming of a bog, the planting of an orchard, or the building of a farm-yard! Hence, thousands of industrious Irish farmers are afraid to spend capital in improvements which may be their ruin.

Is there any thing remarkably bold or peculiar in the history of Ulster?

From the dawn of Irish history till the middle of the 17th century Uladh was the kingdom of the Hy Nialls (O'Neills) the most powerful of all the Celtic families of Scotia. That family not only ruled Leath Conn, which included Connaught, but gave monarchs to Tara during nearly the whole period of the pentarchy, and for five hundred years of the English usurpation rendered that usurpation but nominal in the north. It was in this province St. Patrick first preached the gospel, made his first converts, fixed his primatial see and died. The invasion of this quarter in the

12th century by John de Courcey, the Plantation of Ulster in the 17th by James I and Elizabeth, by whom hundreds of thousands of acres were confiscated in this one province and the native proprietors expelled to make room for Scotch and English adventurers, the battles of the Yellow Ford (10th August, 1595,) and Benburb, (5th June, 1646,) the Siege of Derry, (1689,) the Dungannon Convention, (1782,) are the salient points of Ulster History during the English connexion.

How many counties in this province?

Nine: in order of size—Donegal, Tyrone, Antrim, Down, Derry, Cavan, Fermanagh, Armagh, and Monaghan. Belfast is the metropolis.

CHAPTER LVII. — DONEGAL.

I have already learned that Donegal is mountainous and romantic, with great cliffs and sublime coast scenery.

Situated in the north-west angle of the island, Donegal is much cut up on the coast, whence its many fine harbors. On the land side it is nudged by Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh, the Foyle—including the Lough—being the physical boundary-line for near half its eastern length. Two straight lines may be drawn at right angles in the county for eighty and forty miles respectively. Donegal is divided into six baronies, the peninsula of Ennishowen* (Owen's Island) a part of the ancient patrimony of the O'Dogherties, being one, and the sublime promontory of Banagh being another—two beautiful illustrations of a former position (p. 3) showing how the physical are the bases of the civil divisions of geography.

What is the present social condition of Donegal?

Very poor, as may be expected when nature and society conspire against industry. Agriculturally, this county is the

* The first part of this name means "island." Hence "Inch," an island in Lough Swilly; "Ennis," the capital of Clare, which is nearly surrounded by water; "Inchiquin" (O'Quinn's island,) in Cork; "Enniskillen," on an island in Loch Erne, and scores of other names with this prefix which is applied to *peninsulas* and *oases* as well as to land surrounded by water.

poorest in the island (p. 63); and the relations, as established by law and politics, between landlord and tenant in Ireland have made Gweedore and other districts in the west of Donegal the scene of social incongruities which have, within the last two years, shocked civil society within the circle of the British press. The valleys, however, are fertile, and the rivers abound in salmon, the salmon fisheries of the Foyle and the Erne being among the first in the country, while the herring fishery of the coast employs many vessels and many hands. The "take" of salmon in the Foyle alone, has averaged, for many years together, 2,814 cwt., or 315,168 lbs. per annum; and the open-sea fishery of Donegal employed, in 1849, 2,810 registered vessels and 12,188 men and boys. Fine pearl-mussels are said to be found abundantly in the rivers of Donegal. Ennishowen has been long celebrated for its whisky, especially that termed *pôtheen*, which is prohibited by law as contraband, because manufactured secretly to avoid taxation. Kelp-gathering and salt works employ great numbers of the poor peasantry on the coasts and the adjacent isles, where the government schools lately introduced to teach the English language appear to be a decided failure, so completely Celtic and Irish-speaking are these people, (p. 39).

What Celtic families possessed this territory in ancient times?

The O'Donnells, after one of whom it was named Tir-Connell, (p. 3). This family figures conspicuously during the struggle with England; and since the fall of their house and their consequent expatriation, they have risen up in European politics as very prominent and able actors. France, Austria, and Spain, owe much and have paid much to this powerful family. Under the O'Donnells in Tirconnell were the O'Doghertys, MacSweeneys, O'Gallaghers, O'Clearys, &c. Sir Cathir O'Dogherty of Ennishowen was he who, with O'Neill of Tir-Owen, gave the "Undertakers" such trouble during the "Plantation." The O'Clearys of the 17th century have left us the most valuable body of historic records we possess and the like of which any country may be proud of. Columbkille, apostle of Scotland, was one of the O'Donnell family and a native of a place named Gar-

tan, in this county, which has, also, produced Colgan and that most learned infidel, Toland, both born and educated in Ennishowen.

Are there any important towns in this county?

Very few, the largest not having 5,000 of a population and the ancient capital, Donegal, not having now 2,000. In this latter town was compiled, about two and a half centuries ago, that valuable body of Irish annals just referred to, which Colgan appears to have first styled, *Annales Quatuor Magistrorum*, "Annals of the Four Masters," by which name they are now known. Ballyshannon, on the Erne, which is here crossed by a bridge of 14 arches, and Lifford, on the Foyle, are the chief towns; the latter, being more central for judicial purposes, is the assize town, though the other has the larger population. At Lifford, Red Hugh O'Donnell, in 1596, entertained Don Alonzo Copes, sent by Philip III of Spain to assist the Irish against England. Letterkenny, where bishop Ebher MacMahon led 4000 men to a glorious grave, fighting for their country after O'Neill's death, is at the head of Lough Swilly, in which the brave Wolfe Tone was arrested in his attempted French invasion, two generations afterwards (1798). Raphoe is an ancient bishopric founded by St. Eunan, whose Protestant successor, in the time of Cromwell, was besieged in his pala e here for his friendship to the Irish and espousal of their cause. Buncrana, Ballybofy, Stranorlar, Killybegs, and Pettigoe are the principal other places. Near the last is the famous Lough Derg in which is the penitential island named "St. Patrick's Purgatory." This county and the adjoining one of Tyrone were long notorious for practices of witchcraft and sorcery.

CHAPTER LVIII.—TYRONE.

What are the physical and social features of the O'Neill's country?

Not so broadly distinct as those just referred to. Much of Tyrone on the north is coarse and hilly; but it is well watered and, though surrounded by five counties, has access

to the sea by means of Lough Neagh and the Strabane Canal. Socially, its quarter of a million is no burden on the superficial area, being no more than 203 souls to the square mile, while Down has 335 and Armagh 382, but Donegal only 137! Tyrone is divided into four baronies.

Which are its principal towns?

Dungannon, Strabane, Omagh, Cookstown, and Newtownstewart, with the villages of Ballygawley, Fintona, Clogher, Moneymore, Pomeroy, Caledon, Trillick and Gortin.

Please explain your recent allusion to the Dungannon Convention.

This town, situated near Lough Neagh, is the capital of the county, and as the residence of the O'Neills for centuries may be regarded as the ancient political motropolis of the province. Hence it was selected on the memorable 15th February, 1782, by the Volunteers of the north for the great Convention which led the way in the movement for legislative independence, as already explained under that date in my historical sketch (pp. 97, '8). The meeting was held in the church, the better to show the solemn seriousness of its object and truth of its final resolution—"That no power on earth hath or ought to have the right to make laws for Ireland, but the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland." Dungannon is now a place of about 4,000 souls, with some manufactures, including those of linen, earthenware, whisky, and ale. It sends one member to the House of Commons and has an endowed grammar-school of the first class, known by the title of the "Royal School of Dungannon."

Describe the other principal places mentioned.

Strabane, most picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Foyle, quite adjacent to Lifford, which is on the left in Donegal, has a larger population than Dungannon by ten hundred. To avoid natural obstructions to the navigation of the river at this point, a canal of four miles connects Strabane with the open Foyle. Omagh and Cookstown have each about 3,000 inhabitants; the former in the centre of the county romantically perched on an elevation, and the latter near Lough Neagh with its *rus-in-urbem* lines of trees and neat houses. Not far from Ballygawley is Star-

bog Spa, and Clogher is one of the most antique towns in the island, having been anciently a political capital, a pagan sanctuary, and subsequently the see of a bishop. It is now a poor village containing no more than six hundred inhabitants.

CHAPTER LIX.—ANTRIM.

Having already described Antrim as it is by nature, please proceed at once to its social state.

Socially, no part of Ireland so much resembles England as the valley of the Lagan. All along here, but more especially from Lisburn to Carrickfergus, the stirring features of busy Lancashire are even more than realized; for the numerous bleach-greens which whiten the grass constitute a scene which does not much belong to the English landscape. This county has several important towns, namely, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Lisburn, Ballymena, Antrim, Larne, and Ballymony, with the smaller towns of Ballycastle, Glenarm, Portrush, Portglenone, Randalstown, Rasharken, and Cushendall, besides the villages of Crumlin, Ballynure, Ballycarry, Ballyclare, Broughshane, Clogh, Bushmills, Connor, Ballintoy and Stranocum. These last, however, are small but neat places of a few hundred inhabitants each.

Don't mind them—let us have the chief towns?

Carrickfergus (Rock of Fergus) was considered the shire town of Antrim before the rise of Belfast, whose proximity has thrown it deeply into the shade. It is naturally better situated than the latter, commanding, as it does, the deep and open bay, the internal angle of which was for a long time obstructed by sand bars which prevented heavy vessels from coming nearer to Belfast than Garmoyle, four miles. This is no longer the case, however, and the little maratime village at the mouth of the Lagan in the 17th century, ranks now with the Liverpools and New Orleans and Melbournes of the 19th. Carrick, however, is still an important town surrounded with bleach-greens and uproarious with the cotton manufacture. Its population does not exceed 4,000, but it is well garrisoned, its bold castle

on a projecting rock—like the turrets of "proud Dunluce" in the north—commanding the harbor.

That will do—what is the population of Lisburn?

Near 7,000. It is a river-port where M. Cromlin, a European refugee, settled down, as referred to before, (p. 33), and gave an impetus to the industry of Ulster which has kept it astir ever since. The revocation of the Edict of Nantz and the Revolution sent other exiles to the same quarter, where their presence had a similar influence. On the other hand, the commercial panic of 1825–'6 sent Drogheda weavers to France, America and England where they with others of their countrymen, have fully returned the compliment, and are still met with at Rouen, Manchester, Wigan and several parts of the New World. Lisburn and Carrickfergus have the privilege of parliamentary representation, making six members of parliament for this one county.

Of the other towns?

Ballymena has the largest population. It is a flourishing, well-educated community of about 6,000, on the Braid, near its junction with the Maine. This town, like Dundalk in Louth, is blessed with a great number of excellent seminaries. The generally accurate Blackie makes Antrim the capital of the county, though not having half as many denizens as Lisburn or Ballymena, and not a fortieth the population of Belfast! At Antrim is a round tower whose door lintel exhibits a sculptured cross, thus supporting Petrie's Christian theory of these stone-and-mortar puzzles. And here, also, has machinery been first applied in Ulster to the manufacture of paper. Larne, on the Lough of that name, is a watering place but not remarkable for beauty. Glenarm, Ballycastle, Bushmills and Portrush are all maratime and highly picturesque in situation. Glenarm, in particular, is a little scenic gem. Soon after the discovery of bituminous coal near Ballycastle and Ballintoy, (p. 50), the Irish parliament granted considerable sums towards the erection of a pier, and improving the harbor, of the former place, which works the great ocean currents at that point ultimately ruined. Ballycastle and Carrick are two of the twenty-eight fishery districts into which the Irish coast is sectioned. These two districts extend 121 miles, and employed in 1849, 636

registered vessels and over 2,000 hands. Of the remaining towns Ballymoney, north midland, is the most important. Every one of these places is busy as a beehive in the linen industry.

CHAPTER LX.—BELFAST

What is the size and population of Belfast?

The population of a town is generally a good indication of its size. Belfast has now a larger population than Cork, that is over 120,000, and is every year increasing; while Cork has been stationary in business and in population since '41. Belfast is 88 miles north of Dublin, 130 from Glasgow, and nearly the same distance from Liverpool. Its spacious streets and squares, extensive shops and forest of shipping in the harbor, alone impress the stranger as those of a metropolis and first class commercial emporium. It has some but not many good pieces of architecture; in particular, the new Custom House and Post-office, the Queen's College, built at a cost of £25,000, and opened for the first time in 1849, the "old college," and one or two other buildings, with a few of the principal churches. The main Bridge is also a fine structure, consisting of twenty-one arches turned with cut free-stone for a length of over two thousand five hundred feet. To me the national model school of Belfast appears in many respects superior to the central normal establishment in Dublin, of which it is a branch. Botanical, horticultural and other natural-history societies, the Academical Institution, the Belfast Academy, a Lancasterian* with many other sectional schools and private seminaries, male and female, provide munificently for education in "the Modern Athens."

In a manufacturing point of view?

It is before Dublin. In 1850, upwards of thirty steam mills for spinning linen yarn were at work in this one locality, one

*So called after Lancaster, a hot-headed and imprudent youth, but most zealous educator, who started up in England about the same time as Bell, towards the close of last century, and established there the monitorial system.

house alone employing 1200 hands at an annual cost of £20,000 ($96,000,) consuming yearly ten hundred tons of flax and producing over half a million bundles of yarn, worth half a million of dollars. About 300,000 spindles whirl daily in the linen and cotton industry of this one locality. There are besides distilleries, breweries, tan-yards, vitriol works, bleach greens, corn mills, founderies, shipyards, &c., all in plethoric health and activity here.

In a commercial point of view?

Twenty-five steamers constantly ply between Belfast and the great ports of the two islands; 9 of this number, and 452 sailing vessels, the tonnage of which latter was about 77,000, were registered as belonging to Belfast in 1851. In which year the tonnage of all vessels entering the port in the coast and cross-channel trade alone was 600,000, and in the foreign trade 90,000 more. In the same year the shipping tonnage which cleared out of this port in the foreign trade was 74,000; and in the home trade, 351,000.

What form of municipal government has this town?

It is governed by a mayor, nine aldermen and thirty councillors, assisted by magistrates and a large military establishment, including the civic and rural police, the latter named "constabulary," Notwithstanding, the town is periodically disgraced by Orange riots in which life and property are imperiled and occasionally lost. Belfast sends two members to the British parliament.

CHAPTER LXI.—DOWNSHIRE.

Looking into Blackie's Imperial Gazetteer of the world I see it says—"The highest summits (of Ulster) are in the county Donegal," which contradicts statements of yours in our eighth dialogue, (p. 11.)

The highest summits of Ulster are in the mountain barony of Mourne, County of Down, where the "Greater" and "Lesser" Cairn of Slieve Donard have respective elevations of 2,796 and 2,720 feet perpendicular, almost at the verge of the sea; while the highest in Donegal, Arrigal, has an elevation of only 2,462, and being more inland is, as a matter of

course, less objective.* It is true, however, that this barony of Mourne is an exception to the general face of the county, as most of all the waste land in whose ten baronies is collected into this one, where mountain wastes alone cover forty thousand acres!

Is it necessary to dwell on the social aspect of this county?

It is not, as Antrim and Down are more alike socially than physically, the two counties being separated by only the Lagan river and canal. The linen and cotton manufactures present the same features in both counties, while parts of Belfast and Lisburn belong to Down and part of Newry to Armagh. Of the 21 arches which compose the Ballymacaret bridge at Belfast, 18 belong to Down. No county in Ireland presents the aspect of rural comfort and neatness more than Down. In three-fourths of the island all look to the land for support, but in this and the other maratime counties of the north, the fisheries and manufactures relieve the soil of this crushing incubus to a very great extent. The fishery districts of Down are Donaghadee and New-castle, which occupied in '45, 1,442 vessels and 5,530 men and boys.

Are there any good towns in this county?

Newry—in the "Lordship of Newry," a territory of special privilege—is an important place of 13,473 inhabitants, the largest town population (omitting Belfast and Derry) in Ulster. It is situated on the Newry-water which consists of river and canal, the latter extending two miles below the town to the beautiful Lough of Carlingford, (p. 15,) through which it communicates with the Irish Sea. This Lough or Bay is stored with excellent oysters, the dredging and sale of which employ many hands. In 1851, 107 sailing vessels and 2 steamers belonged to this inland port, the united tonnage of which was about 9,000. In that year the tonnage which entered here from all quarters, was over 124,000, and something over 77,000 tons of shipping cleared out. This town is represented in parliament.

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*The next highest mountains in these two counties stand thus:

DONEGAL		DOWN.	
Bluestack,	2,213 feet.	Slieve Beamagh,	2,394 feet.
Muckish,	2,190 "	" Meel Beg,	2,310 "
Slieve Snaght,	2,020 "	" Meel More,	2,237 "

I perceive Colton's Atlas locates this town in Armagh.

Such mistakes are quite common when foreign writers, including English and Scotch, treat of Ireland. Even the viceroys sent over to govern the country have been notoriously ignorant of Irish geography. One of them, Lord de Gray, betrayed the extent of this ignorance some years ago, by a question not less ridiculous than this—if Cincinnati be in North Carolina!

Where and what kind of a town is Downpatrick?

"Patrick's Dhun," or fort, notwithstanding the import of the term, is in a steep valley, the rath or mound consisting of three concentric ramparts enclosing a conical nucleus sixty feet above the base, from which the place derives the name, is situated to the north-west of the town and is supposed to have been the site of a regal residence. In this town St. Patrick was buried and here, for ages, his reliques were enshrined, as, those also of his two principal disciples, St. Columbkille and St. Bridget of Kildare. The place was, consequently, held in the greatest veneration and, like St. Patrick's Purgatory, in Donegal, the Hill of Strual, near Downpatrick, and the holy wells of the vicinity, which are powerfully medicinal, have long been the rendezvous of pilgrims in search of spiritual and corporal consolation. Downpatrick is a very ancient town, ranked formerly as a city, and is still a place of about 5,000 inhabitants, much business, and sends a member to Parliament. It is on the Quoyle, near the junction of that stream with the land-locked fiord of Strangford which admits vessels of 100 tons to come up to the quay. Soap, ale, leather and other manufactures are carried on in the town, which has a diocesan school and the usual county buildings.

Please name and identify the other towns of this county?

Newtownards is a modern community in the barony of Ards (highland) with an important population of 10,000. Like Ballymena in Antrim, it is blessed with many fine schools and has a tasteful female population engaged in the embroidery of muslin. Donaghadee, also in the barony of Ards, is the Scotch packet-station and port. Like Clontarf at Dublin, Donaghadee presents a crescent to the sea, viewed from which it is an object of interest. One of the

best artificial harbors in Ireland is here, built at considerable cost by the Irish parliament, as a port of embarkation for Portpatrick in Scotland, distant only about 22 miles, across which either place may be seen by the unaided eye in clear weather. Rathfriland would appear to be the most elevated town in the county if not in the province. Portaferry (ferry-port) is also in the Ards, on the entrance or straits of Lough Strangford, so called from the village of Strangford (Strong-ford) situated precisely opposite, between which two towns is the only safe "ferry" across the "strong" currents which rush in and out here and create the Ballyculter whirl-pools. (p. 15.) Dromore, Hillsborough, (Hill's-town) Bangor, Ballynahinch, Killileagh, Moira, Ardglass, Castlewellan, Rostrevor, Killough, Dundrum, New-castle, Banbridge, (bridge across the Bann) Gilford, Smithfield, Comber, Hollywood, Warinstown, Clough, Loughbrickland (Lake of trouts,) and other villages are all in this county.

Which of all these are the most remarkable or important?

Historically, Bangor and Dromore—biographically, Killileagh—antiquarianly, Ardglass—geographically, Killough—picturesquely, Rostrevor—industrially, Ballynahinch, Banbridge and Loughbrickland, which last is so named from an adjoining lake of 75 acres which abounds in speckled trout.—Bangor* was such another place of piety and learning as Lismore (p. 120.) Dromore is a bishopric since the days of St. Coleman; the great naturalist, Sir Hans Sloan was born at Killileagh and St. Jarlath, in Mourne; some puzzling old ruins are at Ardglass; and at Killough are some interesting natural curiosities.

CHAPTER LXII.—DERRY.

I see by the map, that the next largest county in Ulster lies between Antrim and Donegal on the east and west respectively, with Tyrone on the south.

Yes, and between Lough Foyle and Lough Neagh. Derry is not remarkable for size or a large per-centage of arable

* This is also the name of a venerable and most picturesque town on the north coast of Wales.

land. It has no high mountains, yet some sweet scenery. In this county, on the banks of the Foyle, was laid the base-line of the trigonometrical survey instituted some years ago by government, whence all Ireland was triangled, surveyed, and mapped upon the great scale of six inches to the mile, and in a style of minuteness, completeness, and accuracy in which neither England nor Scotland nor, perhaps, any other country has yet been portrayed.

Is not Derry the capital of this county?

Socially it is, but physically it belongs to Donegal, being on the left bank of the Foyle, which divides the two counties, and its Liberties occupying a large part of Ennishowen peninsula, a Donegal barony. In like manner, the Liberties of Colerain are taken from Antrim.

How many citizens has Derry, and what class of town is it?

In '51 its population was returned at 19,888, being half a thousand less than that of '41. It is the second town and port in Ulster; and from its conspicuous position on a hill, the houses rising in tiers over each other crowned by the fine old cathedral on the top, with the broad mirror of the Foyle beneath, it is an object of surpassing interest. Yet, Derry has been named "a town of back streets." Here are flour mills, flax mills, roperies, breweries, tanneries and distilleries which, with agriculture, indicate its five million dollars' worth of exports. 716 sailing vessels with 391 steamers, whose united tonnage was 166,000, entered this port in 1850.

Is not this city a place of much historical interest?

Politically it is, though—like Belfast—a modern port. As a town of the Pale, it dates from the Plantation of Ulster, in the reign of James I, who handed this whole district over to a London corporation, on condition of hunting out the natives and planting it with British. The policy, however inhuman and unjust, was a shrewd one, as Derry—from that circumstance styled London-Derry—has been ever since the back-bone of the English power in Ireland. It has been as often attacked since by the Irish as Limerick by the English, and both equally deserve our admiration for intrepidity of which themselves are the best parallels. The sieges of Derry in the 17th century are

among the most remarkable in modern history. To commemorate that of 1689 the city has a monument to the Rev. George Walker, the brave defender of Derry, who lost his life soon after at the Boyne. The famous Farquahar was a native of this city, and the great Abernethy is claimed by Colerain.

What is the population of Colerain?

6,000, residing on the Bann, about two miles from the sea, and engaged in agriculture, manufactures, and fisheries. The take of salmon on the Bann amounts to an average of 280 tons annually. The fine linen fabrics of this town and county are the well-known "coleraines." Cotton, leather, soap, and paper are also manufactured in this flourishing town. Derry and Colerain send two members to parliament.

Any other large town in the county?

Newtown-Limavaddy (Dog's Leap) is the only one with 3,000 inhabitants. Magherafelt, Maghera, Dungiven, Garvagh, Moneymore, Ballykelly, Clady, Feeny, Swatragh, Kilrea, Bellaghy, Muff, and Desartmartin are all small places, the most important of which, Magherafelt, has not 2,000 people.

CHAPTER LXIII.—CAVAN.

I see Cavan is the most southern county in this province.

It shall not detain us long, as it has no large town, if that so named with about 5,000 souls be not regarded as such. This county is divided into eight baronies, has much coarse land, many small lakes and bogs, a few mountains of no great height, some minerals, mineral waters, and mineral works in the metallic district of Cuilcagh and Swanlinbar, (p. 75, &c.) and 78 per cent. of arable land. Its lakes occupy four per cent. of its surface. Its population in '51 was 174,000, giving 233 to each square mile, whose educational wants are provided for by an endowed grammar-school in the chief town, with many private seminaries, for the upper classes, and 158 national schools for the lower. The growing, bleaching and manufacture of flax is here also a general pursuit. The illustrious Sheridan family is from this county.

Name the principal towns?

Cavan, Coothill, Belturbet, Ballyhaise, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Virginia, Shercock, Butler's-Bridge, Ballyconnel and Killeshandra. Coothill has four pretty spacious streets, but only about 2,000 inhabitants. Belturbet, on the Erne, has about the same population but is of less consequence. Ballyhaise is a small but pretty place of much industrial activity.

CHAPTER LIV.—FERMANAGH.

I perceive by data already given (pp. 20 and 63) that Lough Erne covers nearly the one-twelfth of the entire county Fermanagh!

Very shrewd, indeed; but the precise proportion of the county covered by water is 10. 22 per cent., in other words, nearly a tithe, constituting quite a peculiar feature of this county; for though Galway contains more than twice the quantity of water possessed by Fermanagh, its great land area reduces its water per centage to about half that just given.

Do those lakes in any way compensate for this intrusion on *terra firma?*

Salmon, trout, pike, bream, eels, perch, are largely yielded up by Lough Erne, which is navigated, on account of its numerous islands, by flat-bottomed boats.

Pray, what may be the depth of the two lakes?

The Lower and larger swallows the plummet to the depth of 225 feet, and the Upper to that of 75 in some places, but more frequently not to half that extent, as many of the ninety islands in this smaller lake are large, thus giving parts of this sheet much the appearance of a labyrinth of channels. It appears to me, therefore, invariably exaggerated on all the maps I have ever seen, except those of the trigonometrical or town land-survey.

Now, respecting the land?

It is known to possess coal and the useful metals, but there is little encouragement to work them. The county has some wood, and this is one of the beautiful features of Lough Erne. The soil is good, bad, and indifferent; and the population only 162 to the square mile.

That will do; come now to the towns.

They are very few. Enniskillen, the capital, has no more than 6,000 inhabitants. It is beautifully situated on the left bank of the channel which flows from the Upper to the Lower sheet, through both of which it receives supplies as a lake-port. Politically, it is such another place as Derry, being remarkable for loyalty to the British crown; in compliment to which, as exhibited on certain occasions, it is flattered in the name of a regiment of British cavalry, the "Enniskillen Dragoons," which when first raised consisted mainly of Fermanagh men. Irvinstown, Pettigo, Brooksborough, Tempo, Lowtherstown, Derrygonnelly, Newton-Butler, Callowhill, Bally-Cassidy, with a few other very small villages, are each under 2,000 population. It will be noticed, that several of these names have been derived from those of families mostly British. Ballycassidy (Cassidy's Church) and Derrygonnelly are, however, Irish. The Cassidys were scribes to the Maguires, hereditary princes of Fermanagh, in the Celtic polity; and as such owned a large tract of land on the shore of the Lake, corresponding to the modern barony in which the town is situated. Charles Maguire of Fermanagh was a distinguished writer of the 15th century, to whom and to the Cassidys is ascribed the "Annals of Ulster."

CHAPTER LXV.—ARMAGH.

I perceive Armagh is one of the smallest counties in Ireland.

Yes, but it is one of the good things which are made up in small parcels. The mountains are few, the Fews being low, and Slieve Guillion isolated; the soil is generally rich; no big lakes encroach on its surface; it has some bog, especially in the north, but much if not all of it is a domestic requirement. It has the densest population and is the most flax-growing, apple-producing and cider-yielding county in Ireland, taking its size into account. Its linen manufacture, muslin-embroidery and crotchet-works occupy thousands, male and female. Its farms are generally very small, but

its farm-yards, cottages, and towns, look white, neat and comfortable. In short, Armagh is one of the happiest counties in the kingdom.

I observe by the map that, though an inland county, it has access to the sea by the Newry and Lagan waters, the former dividing it from Down on the east, and the latter opening Lough Neagh, which bounds it on the north.

And by means of the Blackwater, which separates it from Tyrone, and of the Ulster Canal, a moiety of which runs through Armagh, this county has land and water communication with the west, as well as with the east and north. Thus flax-seed, teas, sugars, wines, &c., come in, and thus its "stout armaghs," yarns, ladies' wear, cider, marbles, butter, and other farm produce go out. This county has 382 inhabitants to every square mile of 513.

I understood you to say that the city of Armagh is the ecclesiastical metropolis of Ireland?

So it is, and was the civil capital also, about the period of the Danes. Dublin rose to be the latter, and, consequently, claimed for a long time to be the former. This long dispute for primacy was ultimately decided in favor of Armagh, which city holds the same relation to Dublin that Canterbury does to London. The archbishop of Dublin, however, is still styled "primate of Ireland;" but the archbishop of Armagh "primate of *all* Ireland"—a rather nice distinction which nevertheless, both churches recognize. This ecclesiastical precedence arises from the fact, that St. Patrick selected this place for his residence and see, which, *de facto*, constituted it the first archbishopric of the Irish church; while Dublin, Cashel and Tuam did not attain the archipiscopal dignity till the arrival of Cardinal Paparo in 1153. From the year 444 till the arrival of the Danes, who burned Armagh almost to the foundations, it was the site of colleges, churches, convents, and monasteries, the rendezvous of foreigners and the pride of the natives. The university of Armagh was esteemed the first in Europe, and to it we are told Europeans flocked as to light in those dark ages. The "Book of Armagh" is, I believe, still extant. It is one of the many ancient Irish records, but now one of the few which have escaped the Dane, the Saxon, and the moth. Many Cath-

olic and Protestant prelates of this see have been illustrious as authors.

What is the status of this city at the present time?

The last census gives it a civic population of 9,306, but seventeen years before, it numbered 10,764. Like Derry, Armagh (Ard-magh—"high field") is on a hill, the highest point of which, is the conspicuous site of the fine old cathedral, whose spire is 150 feet above the summit. This edifice belongs to the Established Church and was built about 1675 on the site of the ancient temple; but it will be soon thrown into the shade by the new Catholic cathedral whose splendid proportions crown the summit of an adjoining hill and which, when completed, will be the most imposing modern church in the island.* Armagh is on the Callen river and is remarkable for cleanliness which approaches neatness in every part, and the appearance of the population corresponds. That of the female portion can not well be otherwise, considering their general occupation—embroidery, lace, and crotchet-work for the Glasgow market. Armagh has an excellent observatory, a "Royal School," a public library of 20,000 vols., tanneries, flour-mills, factories, a linen-hall, a district lunatic asylum, the building of which cost $100,000, with several handsome streets.

Is there any other town in this county as large as that just noticed?

There is not. Lurgan, the most important has not, all out, 5,000 inhabitants. It is advantageously and handsomely situated near the shore of Lough Neagh and the Newry and Lagan navigation. Portadown, situated on the latter, is a canal "port" of much business, on the borders of "Down," and exceeds 3,000 in point of population, The other towns, Loughall, Newtown-Hamilton, Middleton, Portnorris, Mohan, Culloville, Tynan, Acton, &c., are all under that figure in the same respect, but very busy in the linen industry.

CHAPTER LXVI.—MONAGHAN.

We have now come to the smallest and therefore, the last

* It was ready for the roof when the writer saw it in the autumn of '57.

county in the province of Ulster—what is to be said of it?

Monaghan adjoins Armagh and is 14 square miles less in extent, yet it has a length of 37 by a breadth of 23 miles.—This county is divided into 5 baronies and has more arable land, in proportion to its size, than any other in the province and even than any other in the kingdom, except two—Meath and Kilkenny. Nevertheless, it has several small lakes, bogs and coarse districts; 6 per cent of its surface is occupied by water. Its population is 284 to the square mile. Like all the rest of this province, it is busy in the staple manufacture of the country, to which the Ulster Canal and the several streams and lakes reticulating the shire are a great advantage. In '51 there were 140 national schools, attended by about 14,000 children in the county.

Describe the chief towns.

Monaghan on the Ulster Canal near the middle of the territory is a place of not quite 4,000 people. It has a good square, some neat streets, holds large pig markets, and does a considerable business in grain. Clones, as a term, has perhaps the same import as Cloyne (p. 107) and its history corresponds It is a very ancient city, grey and venerable with ruins. It numbers now about two and a half thousand inhabitants. Ballybay is a place of education and much activity, for its size, not having 2,000 all out. Carrickmacross has a grammar-school and the privilege of electing a member to parliament. It is a clean village, consisting of one good street with several radiations, inhabited by 2,000. The best of the remaining places in this county are Castleblaney, (Lord Blaney's residence) Newbliss, Castle Shane, Bellatrain, Drum, and Glasslough, on a pretty glassy lake. It is a significant historical fact, that the judge and jury who tried the MacMahon of Monaghan came in for his property. The repulse of Cremona, in which a MacMahon of Monaghan was a principal agent, is said to have fully paid for the forfeited estates.

LEINSTER.

CHAPTER LXVII.—GENERAL FEATURES.

I have already learned, that the metropolitan province is the most level, has the least water superficies (p. 17), the smallest quantity of waste land, and is, consequently, the most fertile quarter of Ireland, (p. 62.) I have also got a glimpse of its history, as subject to Munster in the ancient biterraqueous arrangement, and tributary to it in that of the Pentarchy, as being from the first the seat of English power in Ireland, and the centre from which it has radiated to the north, west and south. What more about Leinster?

Its most easterly points, Wicklow Head and Lambay Island, are just touched by the 71st parallel of longitude east of Washington, which is also identical with the 6th west of Greenwich. It has Ulster on the north, Connaught, the Shannon and Munster on the west and south-west, with the ocean and the river Suir on the south. Within these limits are 6,807½ square miles, with 219 souls to the square mile. Leinster has more teachers, more ministers of religion, more doctors, and more lodging-house keepers than any other of the provinces, owing, perhaps, to the weight of Dublin in the scales. Socially, it appears to resemble Munster more than Ulster, agriculture being the almost sole pursuit of the rural population, and the Catholic religion being professed by the vast majority even in Dublin. Its other natural, historical, and existing civil features will be noticed as we proceed through its counties.

CHAPTER LXVIII.—MEATH.

By your statistical tables I see, that the county of Meath is the largest in Leinster and the most arable in Ireland; what other distinction has it?

Meath or East Meath, to distinguish it from West Meath, which adjoins it and was anciently a part of it, is the most

historical district in the country. In olden times the territory named Meath comprehended about 2,400 square miles, in our measurement; but the modern shire so named contains but 906 of that area. Louth, Longford and West Meath, as well as the county under consideration, appear to have constituted the ancient Meath which held a similar relation to the four independent provinces that the District of Columbia holds, in our own times, to the United States and Territories. This Columbia is neither a "State" nor a "Territory" nor belonging to any state or territory, but a "district" set apart for the more complete independence of the general government ruling at Washington, the metropolis, which is in this district. In like manner, the ancient Meath was distinct from the four provinces, for the more complete independence of the monarchs and general government sitting at Tara, which is in this locality. The parallel is very noticeable, but the ancient Irish metropolitan district was many times larger than the modern American "district" of Washington; and the parallel is further diverted by the fact, that the latter does not govern itself, while the former ranked politically as a fifth province, self-governed and independent. On the Hill of Tara the General Assembly of the nation, consisting of the monarch, the four provincial kings, the subordinate princes and representatives of the ecclesiarchy held its triennial sessions. This hill is in the present Meath, about a score miles from Dublin towards Trim, and on its top was held, in 1843, perhaps the greatest of O'Connell's "monster meetings," computed to have numbered near a million of men, on which occasion a cap resembling the Irish crown was placed upon his head and he gave emphatic expression to this sentiment—"Here, before God, and in the name of the Irish people, I proclaim the Union a nullity." The celebrated Hugh de Lacy, one of the invaders of the 12th century and the most potent, having obtained in marriage a daughter of Roderick O'Connor, the monarch, came in for the province of Meath, which then became a palatinate under the English crown, and in which this De Lacy was more of a little sovereign than a big subject.

At present, what are the distinguishing features of this county?

It has only 10 miles of coast, Louth and Dublin confining it to that limit on the east; but internally it expands to 47 by 40. It is divided into eighteen baronies, an unusually large number, is generally level, yet has some beautiful scenery, especially on the Boyne and, best of all, it has some of the richest soil in Europe.

Has this county any large towns?

It has not, unless we regard as such one of 4,000 people. This was the human number of Navan a few years ago, and is the largest town-population in the county. Navan is pleasantly situated on the Boyne, has one good street, a flourishing Catholic grammar-school, locally named "the College," and a well-wooded domain overlooking the river, which winds a little further down through a still more scenic plantation. A branch of the Dublin, Drogheda, and Belfast railway diverges inland to Navan and Kells.

Is there any other town hereabout of sufficient importance to detain us?

Trim, also on the Boyne, is regarded as capital of the shire, though now numbering only 2,000 inhabitants. It is certainly a place of much historical importance, as its ecclesiastical ruins and the several parliaments* held here must testify. In 1538 an image of the Virgin Mary, which had been preserved for many centuries in Mary's Abbey founded here by St. Patrick, was publicly burned; and about the same time St. Patrick's staff, a most valued relic, was similarly disposed of, in High-street, Dublin, by Henry the Eighth's archbishop, Brown. This Abbey of Trim was greatly ruined by Cromwell in the next century, it having given him a brave resistance. Kells is another ancient town, situated on the Leinster Blackwater. It was once an episcopal city and is remarkable for having been the place where Cardinal Paparo, in 1153, conferred the four archiepiscopal palls on Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam. Here is one of the best-preserved of the round towers, rising 100 feet from the ground, and here was one of those highly artistic stone crosses now so rare, but of which those still existing at Clonmacnoise and a few other places are splendid specimens. Slane and Duleek

* Two rival parliaments and two rival viceroys, each party claiming to represent England, belegislated the province at *one* time!

were also ancient bishoprics. The former is the place mentioned in Irish history as that where St. Patrick lighted that forbidden fire, on his way to Tara, which so alarmed the Druids and astonished the General Assembly of the nation. The first stone church in the island is said to have been built at Duleek (Domleagh—"stone church") Ratoath, Athboy, Dunshaghlin, Crossakeel, Carlastown, Dunboyne, Rathmolin, Summer Hill, Moynalty and Nobber are the principal other villages. Carolan, the Irish bard and musician, whose traditionary fame is so great in Ireland, was a native of Nobber. He died, 1738.

Are we now done with Meath?

Yes, when I draw your attention to the artificial hill of New Grange, near Slane, discovered to be such not very many years ago, by a herd who was grazing his cattle on its slope. The interior of this little hill is hollow, forming a rude temple, or, perhaps, sepulchral vault in the shape of a rotundo or conical dome, built of uncemented masses of rock. Near it is Dowth, another place of like interest.

CHAPTER LXIX.—WEXFORD.

Is not Wexford the second-largest county in Leinster?

It is; and, guided by our rule of size, we must now jump from the north to the south of this province. This county is rhomboidal in shape and has two of its sides washed by the sea. On the north it is nudged by Wicklow, and on the west by Carlow and Kilkenny, from which last it is separated by the Barrow.

What are the most distinguishing features of this county?

Physically, its very dangerous shores, and historically its relation to the first English invaders and the Rebellion of '98. This county is level towards the south but hilly towards the north. The Black Stairs' chain, in the north-west, parts it from Carlow and is mostly within the latter county. Points of this group go up to 2,604 feet above the sea. The auriferous hills of Croghan, on the borders of Wicklow, are

mostly in Wexford and exceed 2,000 feet, the golden side being in the other county.* (P. 10.)

Are the towns of Wexford of much present importance?

They are. Wexford, New Ross, and Enniscorthy are good business and populous towns. Gorey, Ferns and Newtown-Barry are less in importance, but still stirring places.

Describe the first-named and let me know its population.

Wexford is upon a naturally chiseled harbor. A long prong of land running due north approaching a lesser jutland pointing due south, both enclosing a spacious haven towards which they bear the relation of break-waters, while between the two points is a channel of considerable breadth leading into the harbor. Nevertheless, rocks and shoals abound; and within and without sand-bars enter nature's protest against the entrance here of heavy vessels. The town population in '51 was 12,815. In the same year, one steamer and 103 sailing vessels, whose united tonnage was over 9,000, were registered as belonging to this port; while the entries from all quarters were 45 steamers and 647 sailing vessels, whose united tonnage was 50,000—almost all engaged in the coast and cross-channel trade, its foreign being very trifling.

Has this town any historical reminiscences of the character above spoken of.

It has. It was here the first English and Welsh succors of MacMorough landed, 1169, under the leadership of Robert Fitzstephens and Maurice Fitzgerald, who were followed soon after by the whole gang, all arriving as near to this spot as they could, in those star-steering days.

Was this by accident or design and, if the latter, what?

Obviously by design, notwithstanding the dangerous coast, of which MacMorough must have apprised them. This prince was waiting their arrival here, either ensconced in his castle of Ferns or the surrounding woods of Hy Kinsellagh. By landing at this place the foreigners expected *some* friends and the least number of enemies; and if they had any ambition to be regarded other than pirates or gratuitous aggressors of nat-

* Another precious hill of this name is in the King's county. It is an igneous conglomerate protrusion through limestone, yielding not mineral but vegetable gold!—heavy crops "without any manure whatever."

ural rights, they could show their letters of invitation from a bad man, 'tis true, but still the hereditary sovereign of *this* territory. And it appears to me, they were both faithful to their engagements with him and brave in their engagements of another kind.

Now, respecting the Rebellion of '98?

Since the year 1641, no such scenes took place in Ireland or, perhaps, anywhere else in Europe, except Paris during the first Revolution, as those which this county of Wexford presented during the summer of that terrible year. Pitch-caps, triangles, torture, shooting and burning were the order of the day, on both sides; the wanton cruelty and bigotry of the North Cork militia, composed chiefly of Orangemen, having roused the masses to the fullest retaliation, cutting up that and other regiments at the Hill of Oulart, Three-Rocks, Gorey, New-Ross, and hunting them ignominiously out of the chief town. The engagement on Vinegar Hill, however, proved fatal to the insurgents ultimately.

What is the position and what the population of New-Ross?

This is an inland port, 25 miles from the sea, on the important river Barrow, which admits the tide still further up, and floats vessels of 200 tons at the quay here, even at low water. Including the suburb of Rosbercon at the Kilkenny side of the river, with which it is united by one of those splendid wooden bridges built in Ireland, by Mr. Cox, a celebrated American architect, the population of this important town exceeded 9,000 in '41.

Has Enniscorthy any historic associations of present interest?

Near this town is the celebrated Vinegar Hill, on which the principal engagement was fought, June 21st, 1798, (p. 99.)—This town, as well as Wexford, is very picturesquely situated on the Slaney, which is navigable by barges a long way inland. It has a population of over 7,000.

Respecting the other towns of this county?

Ferns ranks as an episcopal city, though, in population, a mere village. It is situated north of Enniscorthy, on the Bann, a tributary of the Slaney. Gorey, still more north, numbers 4,400 people. Killinick, Clonmines and Fethard are all maratime villages in the barony of Forth, which barony is

socially one of the most peculiar in Ireland. Here is, and has been for many generations, a rural population with a strange dialect and ancient British manners and customs. Greenore Point, Carnsore Point and Hook Head are well known capes in this southern section. Duncannon Fort, in the last named promontory, is a military stronghold, commanding Waterford Haven; and off the others are the dreaded Tuscar and Saltee Rocks, visited by shoals of crabs and lobsters. Here also is Bannow Bay, so desolate at the grave of the "Irish Herculaneum." (p. 40.)

CHAPTER LXX.—KILKENNY.

Looking on the map, I see Kilkenny lies between Wexford and Tipperary; and looking at your statistical tables, I notice it has 92 and one-fifth per cent of cultivatable land, leaving only 7 and four-fifths per cent waste, and that in this very important respect it is before every other county in the Kingdom, except one. I know, also, that it abounds in peculiar coal and marble. In what other way is this county distinguished?

In its history and in possessing the largest and most important inland city in Ireland. The county, or rather the diocese of Kilkenny, corresponds to the ancient Ossory. Kilkenny city is located in the centre of the county, on the banks of the Nore, which are here joined by beautiful bridges of marble. The city consists of two parts which, before the Union, were so distinct, that they had separate municipal governments and separate parliamentary representation, Irishtown, or the ancient borough of St. Canice, having had peculiar privileges. The population of both, in '51, was 19,953, which appears to be less than that of a half a century ago.—The town mainly consists of a dozen principal streets, half of which are important business thoroughfares. Between its modern and ancient buildings, the latter consisting of a round tower, the castle, the cathedral, and many grand abbey ruins, Kilkenny is one of the prettiest inland cities in the three Kingdoms. Three peculiar natural privileges of this locality are said to be, "fire without smoke, water without mud, and

air without clouds."* This city is blessed with many educational establishments—a famous grammar-school, a Catholic college, an archæological society, whose "transactions" are regularly published in the book-form, a literary society, a diocesan library, a district national model-school, with many male and female seminaries, private and public. Industrially, it was a principal seat of the woolen trade, before the Legislative Union, and was well known for its fine blankets. Though having fallen in this respect, it is still a place of some manufactures, carding implements, iron works, marble works, carriages, leather, starch, &c., employing here many hands.

Respecting the history of Kilkenny, what are its points of interest beside those already spoken of in your historical sketch?

This has been the seat of the celebrated Butler family, to which it is indebted for its modern importance. Its many venerable and splendid ruins, indeed, testify to its ancient status long before the arrival of that family in Ireland, it having been the see of the bishops of Ossory and is still. So early as 1376 we are told it afforded the luxuries of the table as well as any town in Europe. In 1539 Piers Butler, Earl of Ormond, and his lady brought artificers from Flanders to Kilkenny; and about the same time was founded, by the same patronizin gpair, the celebrated "Kilkenny College," which thus, in point of time, ranks before that of Maynooth, and even the Dublin University founded by Queen Elizabeth. This eminent grammar-school educated Stanihurst, Baldwin, Prior, Berkeley, Harris, Congreve, Swift, Farquahar, and other great intellects known to history. Several bishops of Kilkenny have also been distinguished in letters, in particular, Bale, Roth, and De Burgo, (Burke); while of the rest the *Collectania Hibernicana* says, "two were lords justices, four lords chancellors, three lords treasurers, one an ambassador, two became archbishops and one chancellor of the exchequer." Parliaments have been held in Kilkenny, from which date many grave statutes no longer to be loved or dreaded. The town suffered greatly from the convulsion

*The antipodes of Cincinnati, where the water is half mud and the quality or quantity of the fire gives the property to the air, of showering lamp-black. One, even one, drop of pure water we have not tasted and could not get to taste while here, now ten months!

of 1641. The next year, Oct. 24th, the Confederation met and assumed that defiant attitude, military and legislative, already spoken of (p. 95.) In '45 the fiery Rinuncini arrived from Rome with munitions of war; and the following year Cromwell came before the walls. His summons to surrender was answered with defiance and, except at Clonmel, he experienced here the greatest resistance he met with in Ireland.—He is said to have saluted the garrison, when marching out as "brave fellows." Clynn and Banim and the late Dr. Cane belong to Kilkenny.

What other towns in this county deserve our notice?

In the south, Thomastown, Callan, Knocktopher, Gowran, and Inistiogue; in the north, Castlecomer, Ballyragget, Freshford, and Urlingford. These are all small places under the population figure, three thousand. At Knocktopher is a Catholic college, and near Thomastown was born the philosopher of whom Pope says—

"To Berkeley, every virtue under heaven."

This town was also named Ballymacandan, both terms said to be derived from Thomas Fitzanthony, of the 12th century. It has not quite 2,000 inhabitants; but Callan has about 2,400. This last place suffered with others by Cromwell's visit to Kilkenny. It is situated on the King's River, a tributary of the Nore. Castlecomer, on another affluent of the same main stream, is an industrious and thriving place, consisting of one good street lined by trees, with several small clean ones, and depending chiefly on the collieries adjacent. Near Freshford is the celebrated spa of Ballyspellan. The other places are mere villages.

CHAPTER LXXI.—WICKLOW.

I have already learned that Wicklow is distinguished for its scenery (pp. 46, 47), and for being the most elevated, but one, of the Irish counties.

Its inhabitants also are noticed for their beauty; the Imperial Gazetteer, of Edinburgh, fancies they have "Roman profiles," and I can vouch myself for their polished manners and civility. It is a pity, therefore, that this county has the

thinnest population of any in the island, only 127 to the square mile, which is not half that of Louth and only a third that of Armagh. Wicklow is also singular in the geological respect of being the only county in Ireland without limestone, or, if it has any, with so small a quantity as to leave it still singular in this respect.

I suspect the encroachment of its mountains upon the arable area, accounts for its thin population?

You are right; it has over 200,000 acres of waste land, much the greater portion of which is irreclaimable mountain, leaving only about as much more to sustain animal existence. This county is the only one in Leinster with a mural coast, if we overlook the Hill of Howth, and a few other isolated points.

Being maratime, has Wicklow any large port?

It has not; it is singularly deficient in this respect, its harbors being all shallow. Nor has it any larger town-population than 3,400. The capital is Wicklow, a pretty place, as every place in this county is, but it wants about two hundred of that figure. Arklow, more south, and Bray, more north, the former near the confines of Wexford, the latter of Dublin, and both surrounded with the most lovely scenery, are the only other maratime towns of any note in this county. Arklow has the largest number of inhabitants. Bray is, rather deficient in water, and, like Wicklow, its southern approach from the sea is pointed out by a very bold, towering point, Bray Head, almost hanging over the water. That of Wicklow, however, is much the grander object, rendered more conspicuous by a lighthouse on its top. More south are the coast caves of Mizen Head, another bold point.

Name the inland towns and point out the principal.

Blessington in the north, a modern town, dating from the days of primate Boyle, has some manufactures, and gives her *nom de plume* to a well-known lady writer. Baltinglas (according to Mr. Beauford, Beal-tinne-glas—"fire of Beal's mysteries") is a very old town, possessing still some traces of its ancient importance, in times of paganism, as a place of fire-worship. Newtown-Mount-Kennedy, Carnew, Tinnehely, Enniskerry, Donard, Delgany, Rathdrum, Aughrim, Dunlaven, Hollywood, Shillelagh (p. 40) and Stratford are

the remaining towns and villages of any note. The famous John Sacrobosco, whose nativity is claimed by Ireland, Scotland, and other nations, is generally allowed to have been from Hollywood, in this county. Stratford dates from the last century and is one of the youngest towns in Ireland.

CHAPTER LXXII.—KING'S COUNTY.

Of the next division what is the situation, extent and population?

King's county with Queen's county, the ancient territory of the O'Mores, Fitzpatricks, O'Brennans, O'Carrols, O'Dempsys, O'Dunns, Delanys, Molloys, &c., dates, as a shire of the Pale, from the middle of the 16th century, when Mary and her husband, Philip of Spain, wielded the English sceptre, in honor of whom, these two territories were dubbed, for the first time, with their present names, and their then intended capitals were christened, respectively, Philipstown and Maryborough. This county corresponds to the ancient Ophaly, covers 772 square miles and is peopled by 145 to the square. It is 45 miles long with a very various breadth, has some very large patches of the bog of Allen and some coarse upland along the Slieve Bloom plateau, which here disturbs the great Plain for many miles and forms, for some distance the natural boundary between this and the Queen's on the South.

Please to point me out the chief towns?

They are Tullamore, Birr and Philipstown. The last named is only a village in population, having been under a thousand at the last census. Tullamore is the capital, though the number of its inhabitants is less than that of Birr, whose situation is not sufficiently central for county purposes.—Tullamore, on the Brosna ("bundle of sticks,") is advantageously situated in about the centre of the county, and contiguous to the Grand Canal which crosses the province from Dublin to the Shannon. It is a very stirring inland town of about 5,000 souls. Birr on the little Brosna has fully 6,000, and is remarkable as the residence of Lord Ross, whose observatory and wondrous telescope are the greatest attrac-

tion which this locality possesses. This telescope throws that of Herschell far into the shade, and is the greatest curiosity of its kind the world has yet seen. The poet Frazer, better known by his *nom de plume* "J. de Jean," was a native of this place, and Henry Brooks, author of "Gustavus Vassa," "The fool of Quality," &c., also belongs to the King's County.

Are these the only notable places hereabout?

Banagher, Shinrone, Killeigh, Cloghan, Clara, Eden-derry, and Frankford are the best of the remaining villages. Killeigh was once the site of several religious houses; and Clonmacnoise, in the north-west extremity of this county, on the left bank of the Shannon, was a city of the first religious importance. Its monastic property caused it to be repeatedly plundered by Danes and English; for instance, in the year 1200 by the latter under Meyler Fitzhenry, an illegitimate son of Henry I, and then Lord *Justice!* The ruins of "Seven Churches" by which designation this place as well as Glendalough is now known, still identify Cluainmac-nois ("retirement of chieftains' sons"); for this was a regal cemetery, and here, among other chieftains, was interred, in 1198, the last monarch, Roderick O'Connor, after a long monastic retirement at Cong. Nine years after, his reliques were taken up and enshrined. The "Annals of Clonmacnoise" was one of the ancient chronicles of the kingdom. This place adjoins the County Westmeath to which it belonged previous to 1638, when it was transferred with 300 acres to the barony of Garry Castle in this county. Historically, it dates from the middle of the 6th century, when it was founded by St. Kiaran.

CHAPTER LXXIII.—WESTMEATH.

Has the next county any distinguishing characteristic?

Westmeath has the lake feature so rare in this province, its water surface covering 22,427 acres, which constitute 4.94 per cent. of its entire area. It has several hills, but none deserving to be called mountains; some of them are entirely cultivated, while others, more elevated, afford excellent pasture. There are also several bogs in this district, but, on

the whole, it is a rich, undulating, well watered territory of 708½ square miles.*

Please to name the larger lakes of this county?

Loughs Dereveragh, Ennel, Owel, Iron, Lean, Foyle, Inny and Bancan-Annagh, with about one-fourth of Lough Ree —all amounting, including streams and small loughs, to 35 square miles.

Has Westmeath any sizable town?

It has. Mullingar, the capital, situated conveniently about the centre of the county and advantageously on the Royal Canal and Great Western Railway, which crosses the country almost from sea to sea, has a population of 11,500. It is a noted place, being the greatest wool mart in the kingdom, and, as a fair town, second only to Ballinasloe.

Any other town of importance in this county?

Athlone is a historic place. It is situated on both banks of the Shannon and, therefore, belongs to two counties and two provinces. Both sections had a population in '51 of 6,218. Athlone has some woolen and linen manufactures, breweries and distilleries, is accessible by the Shannon navigation from the north and the south, and is the first military inland depot in Ireland.

You have referred to its history, I will thank you to be more explicit.

Being situated as described, Athlone commands two provinces, and was, for a long period, the great highway over the Shannon. The English early noticed this central position and made it the seat of the Connaught Presidency, the castle in which the presidents resided being in the Connaught section of the town. Here in the great rebellion of 1641, which nearly destroyed Athlone, the then president was besieged by the Irish forces under Sir James Dillon for twenty-two weeks, no power that the Pale possessed having been able to relieve the besieged till reinforcements came from England. The same year, however, the English soldiers plundered the convent of Bethlehem, near Athlone, compelling the nuns to fly with their lives through the country. But, that night,

* Blackie is mistaken in saying 678, as a child may determine by dividing the acreage already given from the governmental survey (p. 63,) by 640.

intoxicated with the spoils of Ballinecloffy, the convent-sackers were cut to pieces by a party of Irish stripped to their shirts, the better to execute their vengeance. The following year Dillon returned to Athlone, compelled the garrison, though reinforced by two regiments, to ask a truce, and, notwithstanding the fact just recorded, himself escorted the English ladies of Lord Ranelagh safe from harm, to Trim. But the most memorable siege of Athlone was that of 1691, when the Irish were on the defensive, and made this noted pass, by feats of individual heroism, the Thermopylæ of the Revolution. They were beaten, however, and fell back in good order on Aughrim.

Any other important towns in Westmeath?

No other, unless we regard as such Kilbeggan, with 1,500 inhabitants, and Castlepollard with a smaller number. Moat, Foure, Multifarnham, Kinnegad, Collinstown, Killucan, Ballynahown, Lissoy, (Auburn,) Finnea, Kilkenny-West and Street, are all small communities. Foure, or Fore, is said to have been once a considerable place, socially and educationally, as the name implies. Multifarnham is identified by Sir Henry Piers as the spot where the "fatal Rebellion [of '41], which broke out with such fury on the English, was hatched and contrived." Street is remarkable as being the first street in Ireland, or anywhere else, of which we have any knowledge, that has been lighted with peat or turf gas. (p. 22.) And Lissoy is identified as the celebrated Auburn of Goldsmith, the "loveliest village of the plain." It is situated picturesquely on the eastern shore of the spacious Lough Ree, about half way between Athlone and Ballynahown.

> "Sweet, smiling village! loveliest of the lawn,
> Thy sports are fled and all thy charms withdrawn;
> Amidst thy bowers the tyrant hand is seen,
> And desolation saddens all thy green!
> And trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's hand,
> Far, far away thy children leave the land!"

What ancient families possessed this district?

Chiefly, the Magheogans, O'Melaghlins, O'Malones, MacGawly's, MacCaroons, Foxes, and the O'Briens of Brawny, among whom settled the Dillons, Daltons, Pettys, and other

Anglo-Norman families. One of the Magheogans is the translator of the Book of Clonmacnois, and another, residing at Paris, has given our own times a most erudite History of Ireland. The Dillons and Daltons (D'Alton) have become as Irish as the Irish themselves.

CHAPTER LXXIV.—QUEEN'S COUNTY.

How is Queen Mary's County situated?

Between King's County and Kilkenny, Tipperary and Kildare, the first being north of it, and the last east. Before that lady's time its was called Leix, and owned principally by the O'Mores. "If the baronies of Portnahinch, Tinahinch and Upper Ossory be taken from the Queen's County, the rest will be Leix." Beauford and Ledwidge, the antiquarians, were natives of the Queen's County.

Has this county any peculiar physical characteristic?

So very unlike the district last spoken of, this has the smallest water surface of any county in the country, except Dublin; that is, only about two-thirds of a square mile. Yet it has several streams and within it the Barrow and the Nore have their main sources in the Slieve Bloom Mountains.

What is the extent and what the population of the Queen's County?

664 square miles, each inhabited by 212 on the average. The county has some bogs and heaths, is level in the centre but hilly towards the extremities, yet its arable is quintuple its waste surface, the latter being half that of the King's County. Iron, copper, and other minerals are known to exist in the Hills of Dysart, which, like the neighboring hills of Castlecomer in Kilkenny, yield annually large supplies of coal. Cheese is another production of this county, and manufactures have been long carried on in its chief towns.

Please to name the chief towns?

They are Maryborough, Portarlington, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Borris-in-Ossory and Abbeyleix. The first-named is central and looked upon as the county-town, though possessing now barely 3,000 inhabitants. It is, however, a stir-

ring place, with a good market square and some county buildings. Portarlington on the Barrow and Mountmellick on the Owvas, an affluent of that river, have the advantages of canal and railway as well as of river, and are very active towns. The former is represented in parliament, and the latter numbers about 4,000 people. Mountrath is a small place, yet carries on some cotton and woolen manufactures and has a flourishing monastic grammar-school.

I will trouble you now merely to name the larger villages.

They are Aghadroe, Stradbally, Ballinakill, Durrow, Rathdawny, Rosenallis, Mount-Oliver, Snugboro' and Summer Hill. The Rock of Dunamase (Dun-na-maes—"fort of the plain") is a very bold object, not unlike the Rock of Cashel, and has been a fortress from time immemorial. It was the residence of the hereditary chief, the O'More; and I am surprised to learn, that this place and the "adjacent territory ranked as an English palatinate under Marshall Earl of Pembroke, in the 13th century." The villages of Aghadroe and Sletty were once episcopal cities; and Gabhran, another royal residence belonging to the princes of Ossory, was also in this county.

CHAPTER LXXV. — KILDARE.

I see by the map that Kildare is the most central county in Leinster, and am already aware it is almost a perfect flat.

Consequently, it has no mountain wastes and is before twenty-five counties in respect to tillage; but it has much bog and, altogether, 51,000 acres of waste land. Its population is only 146 souls to each square mile of 654.

I suspect then it has no large towns?

A very just inference: no town in the county had a greater population, in '51, than 3,000. Some of them, however, teem with historic associations and were once of much more importance than now. Kildare (Coill-darragh—"wood-of-oaks") is the chief town and ranks as an episcopal city. Its hoary ruins and sombre, if not solemn, aspect attest its antiquity. Here is one of the highest of the round towers, and near the town is the well-known Curragh—the term

perhaps traceable to the Latin imperative *curre*, "run."

Pray what may be the extent of this course?

4,858 acres, vested in the crown, and lying north-east of the town, on the left side of the Great Southern Railroad as you proceed from Dublin. April, June, September and October are the racing seasons.

What other place in this county calls for remark?

Naas is also a very ancient place, the Tara of Leinster, where the provincial princes and brehons held their annual assemblies. "It is remarkable," says the curious Valancy, "that the ancient arms of the town are two serpents and that *nahas* in Hebrew should, also, be a serpent." Athy and Monastereven are towns of the same present standing. At Mullaghmast, near Athy, a cruel slaughter of natives was perpetrated in the 16th century. Maynooth is a village of much report, owing to the annual debates in the British parliament respecting the state endowment of the celebrated Roman Catholic College of St. Patrick which is here. The old government grant to this seminary was £8,000, which the late Sir Robert Peel, when prime minister, caused to be raised to its present respectable figure of £30,000 ($144,000) per annum.

Is not this endowment creditable to the British Government?

The British government had enacted the penal code, which prohibited Catholic education in Ireland; to obtain this education the priests and gentry had to go to France and other countries; France and the other countries were England's bitterest enemies for generations; bitter enemies of England these priests and gentlemen returned; and, so, to prevent this uncontemplated effect of an unwise as well as an unjust policy, by keeping the leaders of the people from imbibing "French notions" on the continent, this catholic college was founded by the Irish parliament in 1795!

What other towns hereabout deserve notice?

Castle-Dermot was once a place of consequence and a regal residence. Here was first tried the "charter-house" experiment—a government educational project of the last century specially intended for Irish Catholic children, by which they were to be supported, lodged, clothed and then put to trades, but wholly severed from their natural guardians and

*taught in the Protestant faith!** New-bridge, though a village with only one good street, is a large cavalry depot and has a new Catholic college, beautifully situated on the banks of the Liffey and the chief ornament of the place. Celbridge before the Union was a manufacturing place of much activity.

Any thing further, historical or biographical?

Since the English invasion this county has been the home of the Fitzgeralds, dukes of Leinster and earls of Kildare, but previously belonged chiefly to the O'Beirnes and O'Tooles. The famous St. Bridget belonged to this county, where she lived and died, but her shrine was removed to Downpatrick to be with that of the Irish apostle.

CHAPTER LXXVI.—LONGFORD.

We approach now a group of small counties, the smallest in the country of which Longford is one.

And its waste surface occupies a full quarter of it. It has some lakes, several bogs, and stony uplands, but much level, good soil, which supports 196 individuals to every square mile. This is the most central county in Ireland, and is, therefore, favorably situated towards each of the four provinces. It has canal and rail communication with the chief towns, and commands the Shannon navigation. It owns a large section of Lough Ree on the south, and has a good sheet of water in the north, Lough Gowny, which is over five miles in length.—This county corresponds to, but is not identical with, the ancient Annaly of which the O'Ferals were the chiefs.

I will thank you to pass rapidly through the chief towns, if no larger than those last spoken of?

Longford town on the Cromlin, with a population between four and five thousand is, and deserves to be, the capital. Its main street, winding on a gentle slope, has a business and respectable appearance. Near the town is one of the defunct charter-schools just spoken of. Granard, Edgeworthstown, Newtown-Forbes and Ballymahon are the principal other places.

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* As a proselytizing agent the Charter-House system was a failure from the first, and was ultimately abandoned by government upon the exposure of its machinery and results by John Howard, the prison philanthropist.

I understand Miss Edgeworth was an Irish lady?

Her family has given name to Edgeworthstown, in which she was born; and the family of Forbes has got a lake, a castle and a town, in this quarter, so designated. The former of these two places is also remarkable on account of its church spire, "which can be raised and lowered in 18 minutes" by machinery within it! Here is a special school for the sons of clergymen, perhaps the only one so circumscribed in the Kingdom. Granard is a very ancient place, having been the residence of the chiefs of Teffia, a section of Annaly. The moat of Grenard is a curious elevation crowned with a Danish fort, and commanding a large horizon. Ballymahon on the Inny, as it goes into Lough Ree, is picturesquely situated and has large cattle-fairs. Saint Johnston, Killashee and Barry are small villages. Ardagh gives name to a diocese which occupies parts of three provinces.

CHAPTER LXXVII.—DUBLIN.

Omitting the metropolis, for the present, what is the population of the county Dublin?

So high as 416 to the square mile, the densest of all. This multiplied by 354, the number of square miles in this division, gives near 148,000 people to the rural county.

Does it follow that this must be a rich, arable soil, encroached on by no mountains, bogs or lakes, or that some of the people draw their supplies from the capital and distant places?

Very likely, both. This county has no water-waste, not having a single lake worth naming; but it has some hills in the south, where it is thumped by the granite knuckles of Wicklow, which, for a few miles, look serious as mountains. All the rest of the county is level, arable, and well laid out. Respecting distant supplies, this district is full of gentlemen's seats, many of which are supported by professional services rendered the capital, and by rents from that and other parts of the country. Though only thirty-two miles long, this little shire has seventy miles of coast and here is another source of spplies—fishery, commerce, and sea-bathing.

CHAPTER LXXVIII.—DUBLIN CITY.

What place does the metropolis of Ireland hold among the capitals of Europe?

With all geographers and tourists, to speak of it is to praise it, for the number and beauty of its public buildings and its natural adjuncts in the way of scenery. The gentle Liffey, the rugged Dodder, the Horse-shoe Bay, and towering Ben Hedar, the deep-green woods of Fingall, the crescents strands, villas, and plantations of Clontarf, Sandymount, Black Rock, Kingstown, and Dalkey, the approaches by Donybrook, Rathmines, Harold's Cross, Dolphen's Barn, Kilmainham, the Phœnix Park, Phibsborough, the Strawberry hanging-gardens, and, in the back ground, the Sugar Loaves, coasts, glens, streams, woods, and waterfalls of Wicklow—all framing a centre-piece in full consonance with this gorgeous setting!

I will thank you, then, to describe the centre-piece?

The city is cut into two nearly equal parts, by the river Liffey, which here flows nearly due east, and is escorted into the bay by two splendid quays, with breast-works, flagged walks, and deep facings of cut granite, towards the water, during their whole length which is the full diameter of the town. Along those spacious quays are several fine buildings, shops, stores, and private houses, their fronts facing each other, and the river, while the great domes of the Custom House, and the Four Courts, with more than one church-spire, tower grandly over the whole. The perspective is greatly heightened by the forest of masts in the harbor, and several beautiful bridges, in particular, Carlisle, Essex, King's and the "Metal Bridge," the last being a single iron span, all in nearly a perfect straight line, the deviation being a gentle curve. This arrangement is far more classic than that of London, where the Strand, Templebar and other principal streets have their backs to the Thames; and than that of Liverpool, where long lines of docks, and high "dead" walls shut out the quays and the Mersey which, besides, has not there, a single bridge.

Please now describe either half of Dublin separately?

On the right bank of the Liffey is the older and, perhaps, more extended section of the city. It may be regarded as consisting of two distinct parts—ancient Dublin, and the modern aristocratic quarter around Trinity College. The former is low in situation, low in appearance and comfort—here are very many poor streets and some squalid back lanes. St. Patrick's Cathedral is almost the only relieving building in this very ancient locality. Yet, this was once the scene of much industrial activity and consequent comfort, before Dublin fell as a manufacturing city, the weavers of the Liberty having been a numerous, a privileged and an influential class. All the rest of southern Dublin is beautiful, consisting of a great number of private streets, five squares, some excellent business thoroughfares and many noble pieces of architecture. Stephen's Green is one of the largest squares in Europe; and College Green, with Dame street, a business thoroughfare and promenade hard to be paralleled, in the magnitude and beauty of the public buildings which grace it. These are the Bank, the University, Dublin Castle, and the Royal Exchange, with the Chamber of Commerce, the fine equestrian statue of William III, and the Moore Monument contiguous. The Castle comprehends many buildings including a little architectural gem in the shape of a church and is, itself, a ponderous pile. The University buildings are still more extensive, constituting almost a town in themselves; and the Bank, formerly the Parliament House, has been favorably compared with the first specimens of architecture on the continent. Grafton-street, another fashionable resort and rich business street, is contiguous. At this side of the Liffey, also, are the Dublin society, the Royal Irish Academy, the College of Surgeons, the Catholic University, the Industrial Museum, two Cathedrals, two Theatres, Portobello Gardens, City Mansion House, Corn Exchange, Commercial Buildings, the Dublin and Marsh's Libraries, one magnificent railway terminus, several equestrian monuments, with a great number of very fine hospitals, churches, private mansions and other buildings.

Come, now, if you please, to the other half of the city.

On the left of the Liffey rises the northern division, up a gentle acclivity. One of the most spacious and splendid

business streets in Europe, is here, in which a dozen tandems might drive abreast, its whole length, were it not for Nelson's Pillar, a Doric column of great height, upon which stands a gigantic effigy of the hero, and which is right in the centre, flanked on either side by two fine structures, the General Post-office and the new Palace-mart. This is Sackville street, and measures about a quarter of a mile in a straight line from Carlisle Bridge to the Rotunda Gardens. In this half of the city are very select private streets, two aristocratic squares, several beautiful new churches, in particular, St. George's, Phibsborough, and the Catholic Cathedral, the National Model Schools, two pretty railway termini, the Custom House, Four Courts, the "Temple," Linen Hall, Royal Barracks, Newgate, Hibernian Academy, the Phœnix Park, (containing the Viceregal Lodge, the Zoological Gardens, the Wellington Monument, and other buildings,) with the suburbs of Clontarf and Glasnevin, at which last place, are the Botanic Gardens, the National Agricultural Model School, and the most beautiful cemetery in Leinster, where O'Connell, Curran, Frazer, and other intellects repose. Here is the appropriate national monument to the Liberator, from a design by Petrie—a round tower of, I think, cut granite, white as limestone, and rising in naked isolation to the maximum height of the glorious old prototypes.

CHAPTER LXXIX.— SOCIAL FEATURES OF DUBLIN.

I fancy I have now some idea of the physical distribution of this city, but I desire to know, also, something of its other features, as a metropolis, institutional, commercial, and historical?

The principal institutions have been named, and the names of most of them are sufficiently indicative of their natures and objects. A prominent, indeed, the most prominent social feature of this city is its medical and other charities. Several of its citizens, in times gone by, have pinned their names to its history by bequests, which bless thousands. Marsh, Molyneux, Usher, Swift, Stephens, Moss, Denny, Mercer, Smyth, Madden, Prior, Simpson, Osborne, Southwell, O'Connell, are but a few of

the names written through the city in the big letters of the trowel. It is right to observe, also, that many of these foundations receive annual grants from the public exchequer, for instance, the Dublin Society, the Royal Irish Academy, the Museum of Irish Industry, the Hibernian Academy, the hospitals, and, of course, the National System of Education. The state endowment to this last alone, exceeds a million per annum of our money.

I consider this very creditable to the government.

So it is, as respects this last item; but the individual subsidy from this quarter to each of the others is very trifling, if not paltry. And it has to be observed, that nearly all those charities, except the last, were founded in the last century, when Dublin had two houses of legislature, which filled the city with gentlemen of wealth, who greatly aided these establishments, but who are now compelled to reside in London, where they have other concerns. And as it is a notorious fact, that the extinction of that legislature was effected by purchase, in plain terms, bribery, under the plausible show of respect for vested interests, fifteen and twenty thousand pounds sterling having been a common price for a single vote in favor of that measure, these charities were also vested interests which came into that disastrous and shameful bargain.

What are the objects of the Royal Dublin Society?

The application of scientific principles to industrial pursuits—an idea which it was the first public body in Europe to start and to realize. Samuel Madden was the principal originator of this society in 1731. It has quite revolutionized the country by the perseverance of its agency, the great learning of its professors and its bounties to farmers, dairymen, manufacturers, breeders of live-stock and inventors.* It occupies Leinster House, the former palace of the Dukes of Leinster, situated in Merrion-square and Kildare-street, and where, under its guidance, the great exhibition of '53 became a fact in the history of Europe. To this institution belongs the Zoological Gardens in the Park, and the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin. This is a very wealthy corporation.

*And here let me acknowledge, with gratitude, my own obligations to this institution, as an associate member of it, without any pecuniary condition, for three years, while studying for this publication.

What are the objects of the Royal Irish Academy?

Irish antiquities, the elucidation of Irish history, pure science and literature. This is a very learned body, holding a respectable place among the scientific and literary corporations of Europe. Since the foundation of this society, seventy-three years ago, it has amassed a collection of Irish curiosities of every kind, which is esteemed one of the most valuable national museums belonging to the continent. The members take the initials—"M. R. I. A." after their names; and no degree conferred by a university is more coveted by scholars, native and foreign, than these four characters. As a corporation, however, it is not rich; and the government annual assistance of £500 is considered, in no sense, commensurate with the status and responsibilities of the institution.

There are a few more of those institutions whose objects I can not collect from their names.

The Hibernian Academy is exclusively devoted to the fine arts—drawing, painting, statuary and architecture. Its house is in Abbey-street, on the north side, where its annual exhibition in these four departments takes place. The Museum of Irish Industry is located in Stephen's Green, south of the Liffey, and is very similar in its objects to the Dublin society. It is the youngest of all these establishments, being an off-shoot of the Irish exhibition and, therefore, dating from 1853. Its government grant is £3,000. Of the hospitals, that named the Old Man's is the "Irish Chelsea," an asylum for superannuated and disabled soldiers. Besides these, there is a great number of voluntary societies, literary, scientific, musical, artistic and charitable.

Commercially, what is the standing of the Irish capital?

Through all vicissitudes, the wine trade of Dublin has kept up a respectable position; but with the decline of its woolen, cotton and linen manufactures, since the death of the Irish parliament, its general trade has greatly fallen off. In 1851 Dublin had 41 registered steamers, Cork 21, Belfast 9, Waterford 20. In the same year, the chief ports, stood thus in respect to sailing vessels registered as belonging to each:

NUMBER.	TONNAGE.	NUMBER.	TONNAGE.
Belfast.....452	.....75,648*	Waterford 103	16,546
Dublin.....402	294,879	Limerick.....101	13,221
Cork.....391	45,919		

*The "77,000" at page 130 includes the steam tonnage.

The shipping tonnage of steam and sailing vessels which entered, and cleared out of, the three principal ports, that year, in the *home* trade, was:

	ENTERED.	CLEARED OUT.		ENTERED.	CLEARED OUT.
Dublin	781,137	614,632	Belfast	595,620	351,379
Cork	119,487	193,214			

In the *foreign*, including the colonial trade, Cork did a greater business than Belfast, and Dublin than either, in that year, the only year for which I have got any returns.

Has Dublin produced any great men?

Very many. The Stanihursts, Usher, Ware, Denham, Dodwell, Molyneux, Tate, Annesley, Swift, Parnell, Burke, Barry, Madden, Molloy, Grattan, Moore, and more than one of the Sheridans, are only a few of the eminent men born in the Irish metropolis.

CHAPTER LXXX.—CARLOW.

Please now come to Carlow and let me know its position?

The second-smallest county in Ireland is crushed between five others, in the south of Leinster. Nevertheless, it has communication with the sea by means of the Barrow navigation, which separates it from Kilkenny for some miles. It is parted from Wexford, on the east, by mount Leinster and the Blackstairs, a local chain rising, at its northern extremity, to 2,604 feet and forming, at its southern end, an acute angle with the river, where the county terminates in a point. Elsewhere, the boundary lines are less natural and less regular, encroaching not a little on Wicklow and giving the county somewhat the outline of a triangle.

What other natural features has Carlow?

Some small lakes, is well watered by rivers, has an undulating and varied surface, much sweet scenery, a rich soil, marble and slate, is a great butter-producing county, and supports 197 persons to each of its 346 square miles.

What families have held this county?

The Cavanaghs, Ryans, MacMoroughs, Carews, Cooks, Bagnals, &c.

Has this locality any large towns?

The capital Carlow, (Catherloch—"city on the lough,") so

called from an adjoining lake, gives name to the county and is an important town of over 9,000 souls. It is pleasantly and profitably situated on the Barrow and the Burren, consists of two principal cross-streets, with a dozen others, has some good buildings, in particular, the fine old Castle, the lunatic asylum, market-house, cathedral and Catholic college, whose examinations are recognized in the London University. Before the Union the woolen manufacture was carried on here, and still it is the scene of flour-mills, breweries, malting houses, &c.

What other towns hereabout deserve a visit?

Old Leighlin, Tullow, Hackettstown, Bagnalstown, Borris, Rathmilly, Leighlin Bridge, Staplestown, and St. Mullins—to which last-named place the tide-way of Waterford Haven comes all the way up—are the principal other places in this county. Old Leighlin, also, on the Barrow, was, anciently, a very celebrated city, and up to the present century sent two members to the Irish parliament. The third initial of the celebrated "J. K. L.," (John Kildare and Leighlin,) is that of this town, or rather diocese, over which he, (Doctor Doyle,) presided, as bishop. Tullow, of all these, has the largest population, 3,000.

CHAPTER LXXXI.—LOUTH.

What may be the length and breadth of the smallest county in Ireland?

The breadth is various, the maximum being about half the length, and the length about 30 miles. Louth is the most northern of the Leinster counties, and is the centre of a very fertile section of the country, comprehending the counties of Meath, Monaghan, Armagh and one-half of Cavan. A chain of elevated hills runs along the northern confines of Louth, from Carlingford Lough towards Monaghan, and with this exception, the country is comparatively level.

Which is the capital of this county?

Drogheda, situated in the extreme south, at the mouth of the Boyne, and in a pretty steep valley, so steep, indeed, that vessels in full sail pass in and out, under the new railway viaduct though, on the ground level of the surrounding coun-

try. This viaduct is the great highway to Belfast and the north, and jumps the Boyne here, almost over the town, with a magnificent span. Drogheda has the appearance of, and really is, an old town. It has several ancient ruins and a great number of narrow, unsightly back streets. Yet the main thoroughfares show many fine private and business houses.—Here are several good seminaries, including one first-class grammar-school, churches, flour and cotton mills, iron-works, tanneries, breweries, ship-building, soap-making, &c. Drogheda has a population of 17,000.

Commercially, what is the tonnage of this port?

The steam and shipping tonnage which entered Drogheda in '51 exceeded, by a fraction, 84,000 of the former, and 50,000 of the latter; while the total aggregate of 118,700 tons cleared out—all in the cross-channel and coast trade, the foreign business of this port, in that year, being unimportant. A line of six steamers belonging to this town ply regularly between it and Liverpool.

Has not Drogheda some bloody associations? (p. 95.)

Perhaps one of the most cold-blooded slaughters on record is that to which you refer. Cromwell having come before the town and been refused admittance, pummelled the walls for three days; at last, having effected an entrance which was bravely resisted while there was hope, he ordered no quarter, and the very women and children who fled to the church, were skivered by his butchers in the sanctuary! A few years before this, Drogheda having been garrisoned by the English, was repeatedly attacked by the Irish forces, with various success; and you are already aware that the battle of the Boyne decided the succession to the British throne in the vicinity of this town. Near it, also, are the ruins of the famous Mellifont Abbey, for whose exclusive and peculiar regulations, objects and history consult Lanigan or Ware.

Anything further in the same direction?

A great deal, which would take us too far. I must, therefore, be content with referring you to the interesting history of Drogheda, by John Dalton. Jones, the poet, Mills, the musician, and Malpas, who slew King Edward Bruce, at Dundalk, in 1317, were natives of Drogheda.

Is not Dundalk, too, in the county of Louth?

It is, and a sea-port of considerable business. Four steamers, belonging to this place, are daily engaged in the Liverpool trade. This is a great cattle outlet and grain market. Swine are also disposed of here in large numbers. Several tanneries, two distilleries, with breweries, a large iron foundery, employing a good number of hands, steam-saw-mills, flour mills, rope walks, and other extensive branches of industry flourish here. Some idea of the commercial increase of this port may be derived from the fact, that between 1834 and '48 its custom duties rose from £4,460 to 44,398. The export of agricultural produce alone, omitting all kinds of live-stock, exceeded 23,000 tons annually from this one outlet, and now, that the number of steamers has been increased from two to four, this trade is probably doubled.*

In other respects what kind of a town is this?

Very straggling. To go and return the full length of one long street, commencing above the jail and terminating below the cavalry barracks is quite a journey, and diverging from this, at a right angle, is another long thoroughfare crossing the Castletown river. This latter is the principal street, and is a scene of much animation on market days. Here are some good shops, a spacious market-square, having the town-hall and court-house at opposite sides, the latter a new and pretty building. This town is blessed with many fine seminaries, in particular, Lord Roden's grammar-school, "the Institution," and the convent school. A fashionable promenade here, is the Park, a well-wooded and once a tastefully laid out domain, going now fast to decay. One of its covered walks is wanting only in length, to be equal to the Mardyke at Cork. The new Catholic church of Dundalk is the greatest ornament, in the way of building, which the town possesses, the windows of this beautiful temple, all of costly stained glass, are the creditable gifts of a few private individuals.

Historically, what can be said of Dundalk?

It is a very ancient town, and the stamp of antiquity is upon

*Two rival steam-packet companies in this town have waged a suicidal war for years, to the great benefit of others. The consequent low freightage has attracted a very extensive trade to this place, very much to the injury of Drogheda and Newry. Fancy passengers taken by excellent steamers to Liverpool, 130 miles, for 3d—6 cents!

it. One of the most romantic episodes in history, is the battle of Dundalk, a naval engagement between the Irish of Munster and the Danes, characterized by miracles of individual heroism, which made the day disastrous to the latter.

What other towns are in this county?

Ardee, ("hill on the Dee,") Louth, Castlebellingham, Carlingford, Dunleer, Castletown, Collon and the little rustic watering place of Blackrock, are the best known. The first-mentioned takes its name from the river which laves it; Carlingford confers its appellation on the beautiful and excellent oyster-yielding inlet between Down and Louth; there is a second Castletown in this county, in the vicinity of Dundalk, pointed out by the "ivy-girt turrets" of a splendid old feudal castle, which is still inhabited.*

CONNAUGHT.

CHAPTER LXXXII.—CONDITION AND HISTORY.

Respecting the western province, I am already informed to a considerable degree, (p. 53 &c.) Its broken and romantic coast, its many lakes, mountains and bogs, its wild scenery and comparatively small arable surface, need not occupy us a second time. Proceed, then, to its social state.

* A remnant of the by-gone state of Ireland is furnished by this locality, at the present hour. The proprietor and occupier of this castle, a little, old, worthless creature, is here ensconced, surrounded by high walls, and guarded night and day by a special police depot located at his gate, from which he commands an escort wherever he goes. Having incurred the hostility of the peasantry, he, some time ago, received a severe pounding, for which, I learn, two men have been *hanged*, and this standing police expense is imposed on the agricultural class, to which they belonged. When I visited this castle, towards the close of '57, I had to be escorted through the grounds by one of the guards, from whom I have the fact, and who further testified to the miserly habits, in relation to themselves, of the old ward.

Blackie has summarily dealt with that, in these words,—"The Irish language is still prevalent in this province, and so are poverty and ignorance"—a statement which shows that writer to be more reckless in assertion, so tangent to notorious fact, than I had supposed his position and opportunities would permit. The language which is here associated with poverty and ignorance, inferentially as cause and effect, was the universal vernacular of a country, which, in the time of Bede, flowed with "milk and honey," in the time of Cambrensis, abounded in vegetable and animal superfluities, and in the words of Mosheim, was the "mother of modern learning;" which, still earlier, supported the best seminaries in Europe for the gratuitous feeding, clothing and educating of this writer's own countrymen, at "Mayo of the Saxons," Lismore, Mellifont and other places, as testified by all cotemporaneous historians of Europe. This was the vernacular of that "vast train of philosophers," spoken of by Philip of Auxerre, as inundating France in the ninth century, as, also, of those who preceded them, all over the south and west of the continent, between that and the sixth. It was the language of a country, rich enough to tempt the Danes, and strong enough to expel them; of a nation plundered by this writer's own countrymen, in all the moods and tenses of spoliation. A language, to speak which, was to be self-convicted "of a skin"—a "mere Irishman," who might be robbed statutably, without moral guilt or legal responsibility. Thus, in a sense which Blackie did not contemplate, his words under notice, are historically and literally true—their very truth proving his ignorance of Irish history, or his want of candor! Driven from the rich plains of Leinster, and the beautiful valleys of eastern Ulster, and Munster, the native owners of those districts had to fly to the highlands of the west, leaving, in the words of the weighty McCullugh, "nine-tenths" of Ireland to be forfeited by Cromwell and William. Such is the malapert connexion established by this writer between language and social condition, as shown in Anglo-Irish history; while the relation of the former to "ignorance," as respects Ireland, admits of this further explanation—that school-teaching by an Irish Catholic, male or female, lay or clerical, was one of the most determined proscriptions of the penal code for generations!

Knocking a man down and then kicking him for falling, may look rational enough in the farce, but it is too serious a joke to be defended now-a-days with Mr. Blackie's synthetic earnestness.

I have learned that the O'Briens and MacCarthys governed Munster; the O'Neills and O'Donnels, Ulster; the MacMurraghs, Leinster; but what families ruled Connaught, about the period of the English Invasion?

The O'Connors; and the ancient capital, was Croghan, now an obscure place in the county of Roscommon. At the close of the 12th century, this province was formally invaded by William Fitz-Adelm de Burgo (William Burke) a profligate Anglo-Norman adventurer who, unfortunately, was aided by native allies. They laid waste most of the country, plundering monasteries, convents and other places within their reach possessed of wealth. The annals of the Four Masters place this event under the date of 1201, and further add, that when all was over and the usurpers taking their rest at Cong, the natives rose up and slew 900 of them. In four years after, the same William Burke laid waste the province, sparing no place however sacred; but this time it happened worse with him, for he died horribly, in the words of the chronicle—"His entrails and fundamentals fell from their place and trailed the earth after him!" This statement accords with his character, as drawn by his own friends. Cambrensis, the English historian of the day, and one of the invaders himself, who knew De Burgo well, calls him—"semper latens anguis in herba; vir in facie liberalis et leins, intus vero plus aloes quam mellis habens; cujus hodie venerator, cras ejusdem spoliator, existens vel delator; vir dolosus, blandus, meticulosus; vir *vino venerique datus.* Et quanquam auri cupidans, et curialiter ambitiosus"—a snake in the grass, a fellow with a sweet face but a sour heart, to-day pious, to-morrow the same despoiler and trickster, a bland, deceitful coward, *prone to wine and women,* avaricious and ambitious—a pretty agent to execute the bull of Adrian the Fourth, given to Henry II for the moral reformation of the Irish people and the glory of the church!

What is the present population of Connaught?

A few thousand over a million, being a frightful reduction on that of 1841:—

'41	1,418,859
'51	1,010,211
Fallen off	408,648

Thus it appears, that in ten years nearly a third of this province has been depopulated!

Please name the divisions of this province in the order of size?

Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. Two of these are the largest counties in Ireland, after Cork. You are already aware, that the capital of the province is Galway town.

CHAPTER LXXXIII.—GALWAY.

What length and breadth has the second-largest of the Irish counties, whose broad characteristics I am already informed of (p. 18, &c.)

A journey exceeding ninety miles, in a straight line, may be performed within the limits of Galway, whose maximum breadth is about 57. It is a very fine territory, taking it "all in all," its water, bogs and rocks being extensively compensated for, by nearly three quarters of a million of arable acres. It has no mountain higher than 2,400 feet, the elevation of Binabola in the north-west. It yields flesh-colored, statuary and other marbles, and is known to possess the useful metals. Salmon is largely exported from the lakes, the short stream from Lough Corrib* alone yielding so much as ten tons of salmon annually. The sea fisheries off the coast are divided into two districts, extending over 217 miles coast-

* "Lough Corrib, the third largest lake in Ireland!"—Blackie. The new Imperial Gazetteer of the World has fallen into a great number of little mistakes, such as this, in relation to a country only a few hours sail from where it has been written and published. Here, in the backwoods of America, where reliable works of reference on Ireland are the rarest of *rarae avum*, mistakes are not only unavoidable but undetectable, and we therefore trust, our readers will not expect more from us, under such disadvantages, than the world could get from Blackie with all the fine libraries of Scotland at his elbow.

wise, and employing, in 1850, 833 vessels giving employment to 3,600 hands—scarcely a third, however, of the number engaged in the same way five years before! .

What is the population of this large county?

In '51 only 322,000 nearly, being 131 to each of 2,447 square miles, depending chiefly on agriculture. There is, however, some manufacturing industry in and around the chief town; and substantial home-made wearables employ a few hands in the rural districts.

Any other social feature of this district?

All through the west of Ireland, great numbers of the poorer classes go bare-foot, six days in the week, and many who do wear "brogues" do not wear stockings, while some make a compromise by the use of "traheens." *Brogues* are strong shoes made for heavy wear, but far removed, in pliability and appearance, from the barbarous wooden clogs which keep up such an infernal rattle on English pavements, especially in Lancashire; *traheens* are stocking legs which have lost their stocking feet. Feet and legs untrammeled by ligatures have elicited admiration, in these parts, from more than one tourist. Sir Francis Head thinks they are in consonance with surrounding circumstances; and was particularly struck with the beauty of a maiden, whom he saw tripping the dewy lawns with the prettiest ankles in the world! More peculiar to this district however, is the favorite color, which so conspicuously distinguishes the simple female costume of the West, no other county having any thing more characteristic than the red petticoats of Galway.

What ancient families claimed territorial sway in this section of the province?

Chiefly the O'Flahertys, in conjunction with the Lynches,*

* The common noun, "lynch-law," and the transitive verb, "to lynch," are thus derived. A mayor of Galway, named Lynch, a member of this respectable family, which has been rooted in this territory from time immemorial, had a son who committed himself, by some wicked youthful frolic to the laws of which his father happened to be just then a super-scrupulous and much dreaded executor. Found guilty, the young culprit stood before his parent for sentence, and all expected the icy justice of the judge would now melt in the burning feelings of the father. Not so! The culprit must be hanged; and hanged he was, by his own father's hand, out of a front window in his own house, the doors locked to prevent a meditated rescue by the astonished populace!

O'Shaghnessys, O'Dalys, O'Kellys, O'Hallarans, Kirwans, Maddens, O'Mailys, Blakes, &c., among whom settled the Burkes, (De Burgos) Birminghams, Browns, Frenches, Skerrets and others.

What is the state of education here?

Very much improved. The hedge-school* has given place to the respectable national seminary. In 1850 over seventeen thousand children attended 134 of these state establishments, within this one county, not speaking at all of private, proprietary or denominational schools, of which there are a good many in this locality.

What class of town is the capital of this province?

One of over 24,000 people. Galway, like Belfast, is one of the few places in Ireland whose population did not fall between 1841 and 51, that of Galway having risen, within the ten years, more than 7,000; yet the population of the county has decreased to the extent of one-hundred thousand, in the same interval! And within the last twelve months, no town in Ireland or, perhaps, Great Britain has exceeded itself in commercial progress to any thing like the degree which has distinguished the sudden rise of this port during the year. This is now a principal trans-Atlantic packet station, owing to the spirited enterprise of one gentleman, Mr. Lever. Taking advantage of the superior natural advantages of this port, as respects American trade and intercourse, this gentleman has lately run a line of first-class steamers hence to Newfoundland and New York, which has already attracted to Galway a large trade and diverted from Liverpool perhaps the more respectable class of American emigrants. This new state of things completely obsoletes the commercial data of '51, already quoted from, as far as they apply to this port.

Anything further respecting this important town?

Its Spanish origin is stamped upon it. Here are some good new buildings, including that of the Queen's College, several first-class seminaries, churches, convents, monasteries, reading-rooms, tan-yards, flour-mills, distilleries, with other incipient

* So called since the days of religious intolerance, when no person professing the Catholic religion was permitted to keep a school in Ireland, and snatches of book-knowledge were to be had, by the vast mass of the people only covertly under a *hedge*, in out-houses or some such unsuspected place.

branches of industry new to the place, because springing from its new commercial life. To help this rapid development the present government of Lord Derby has generously advanced a liberal sum to improve the harbor, which possesses a good line of quays and is now being connected with Lough Corrib by a spacious canal.

Which is the next most important town in this county?

The city of Tuam with a present population of 8,000. It is the archiepiscopal see of the province and has been such, since the middle of the 12th century, (p. 143,) but dates as a bishopric since the days of St. Jarlath, in the 6th. Since 1839, however, its primatial authority has fallen to the latter rank, in the Established Church, in obedience to Lord Stanly's (now Lord Derby's,) act of retrenchment. A stranger in Tuam looking on its religious and educational foundations, in particular the Catholic Cathedral and the College of St. Jarlath, must feel at once that he is in a place of no small ecclesiastical importance. The present archbishop, Doctor MacHale, is a writer of considerable reputation and of some political notoriety.

What other towns of note belong to Galway?

Ballinasloe is remarkable for the great national fair which is annually held here, in the fall of the year, and which lasts five or six days successively. It is one of the most extensively attended live-stock markets belonging to the continent, attracting, as it does, buyers from all parts of great Britain, as well as Ireland, and not a few from France and other European nations. From 7,000 to 14,000 horned cattle, from 60,000 to 90,000 sheep, and a large supply of fine horses are annually disposed of here, in one week. Here, also, is the great annual July wool-market. The population of Ballinasloe is six and a half thousand.

Please to point out the location of this town?

There it is, in nearly the latitude of Galway town, and longitude of Cork Harbor, (east) on the Suck, a few miles above its disemboguement in the Shannon, with which it is navigably connected by canal. Agricultural and horticultural societies, flour-mills, tan-yards, lime-burning, hat-making and some other manufactures exist here. Here, too, is the lunatic asylum not "for the province of Connaught," as Blackie mentions, but

for its southern half, the northern being very well provided for by the excellent asylum at Sligo.

Any other places of consideration in this county?

Gort and Portumna in the south, Dunmore and Castle-Blakeny in the north, Aughrim, Loughrea, Athenry and Eyrecourt between, with Clifden in the extreme west. Near Gort and Eyrecourt, respectively, are the episcopal villages of Kilmacduagh and Clonfert. Aughrim is remarkable for the great Jacobite and Williamite struggle of July 12th, 1691, in which St. Ruth, the Irish commander-in-chief, was killed. (p. 97.)—Of all these, Gort and Loughrea (so named from an adjoining lake,) have much the largest populations, the respective numbers being 5,000 and 4,000. A great many villages fill up the intermediate districts.

CHAPTER LXXXIV.—MAYO.

What is the most distinctive physical feature of Mayo?

Its waste surface.

I apprehend, then, it can not have a dense population?

Right; its 2,131 square miles have only 129 souls each—the most scattered population in the land, after that of Wicklow.—One is puzzled to say whether lakes, bogs or mountains most predominate in this romantic and beautifully wild territory.—Lough Conn alone, is nine miles long, by a maximum breadth of three, and the greater part of the more spacious Lough Mask is within this county. The rest of this lake belongs to Galway and has a subterranean outlet, through the isthmus of Cong, into Lough Corrib, but will soon have a superterranean connexion by the new canal. Thus the heart of the province will shortly be open to the commerce of Galway Bay! Altogether, within a few acres of 57,000 are covered with water in this single county.

What is the largest town-population in Mayo?

Not quite 7,000 at the last counting. Ballina comes nearest to this and is a thriving little port at the mouth of the Moy—the largest river in the province, (p. 35,) abundantly stored with Salmon and navigable up to the quay by vessels carrying 200 tons. This river peninsulates fully one-half of the county. Castlebar, more central, is looked on as the chief town, though

having only a few over 4,000 inhabitants. It was taken in '98 by a small French force which came to assist the Rebellion, but which was overthrown at Coloony, in Sligo, immediately after. Ever since it has been a principal military station.

Are these the only towns of note in Mayo?

No. Westport and Newport on Clew Bay, Ballinrobe on the Robe, near Lough Mask, Ballaghaderreen near Lough Gara, Swineford and Foxford more central, and Killala in the north, are places of some importance. Westport is the capital of the west, and most charmingly situated on one of the most picturesque bays in the world. (p. 57.) The hundreds of islands in Clew Bay have the same geological feature as the sand eskers inland; and it is rather remarkable, that no shells have been found either in these islands or these little hills, though of limestone gravel. Westport is one of the three fishery districts of Mayo, Belmullet and Killala being the other two.—The Mullet is a strangely chiseled peninsula, hanging to the coast by a hair of land in which this little fishing village is located. Killala gives name to a bishopric and to the spacious bay upon which it is situated, but of which Ballina is the more important port. John Lynch, Archdeacon of Killala, in the 17th century, is the celebrated author of "*Cambrensis Eversus.*"

What employment is afforded by the fisheries of Mayo?

About the same as that of Galway, and the linen industry employs some hands in a few of those places. The mines of this metalliferous region are yet undeveloped: amythists and other crystals are met with in Achill ("eagle") Island, and black marble near Westport.

This island being the largest off the Irish coast, (p. 36) I wish to know its precise area?

35,283 acres or 55 square miles.

Anything more respecting this county?

In common with Galway and, indeed, all Connaught, Mayo abounds in ancient religious ruins, Druidical as well as Christian. Near Lough Conn was the ancient city of Mayo (Maghui—"field on the water," or, according to Colgan, Mageo—"field of the oaks"*) from which, it appears, the county has taken its

* We have never seen a complete topographical etymology of Ireland, and have followed Mr. Beauford, of the *Collectanea*, in most of the derivations given, omitting all which look far-fetched or speculative.

name, and where St. Coleman, in the 7th century, founded the celebrated school for British youth, in which, we are told, the Great Alfred of England was educated. Of the many old abbeys of Mayo, that of Ballintober, near Lough Mask, is still an object of high interest. Cong, ("capital") situated in the isthmus, between Loughs Corrib and Mask, was anciently a city of much celebrity and once regarded as capital of the province, but is now an obscure village. Roderick O'Connor, last native king of Ireland, died here, in 1198, (p. 152.) The "Cross of Cong," a polished steel or fine wrought-iron relique of this place, in almost perfect preservation, is a wonder of artistic skill and manipulation, for the middle ages. It stands from one to two feet high, apparently all solid steel, profusely covered with complex ornamentation, consisting of figures in fine hair-line tracery, engraven in the hard metal. The curious may see it in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, the gem of that valuable collection.

CHAPTER LXXXV.—ROSCOMMON.

How is Roscommon situated?

Mostly between the Shannon and the Suck; the former laving its whole length and separating it, on the east, from four counties, the latter parting it from Galway, on the west. This is the only non-maratime county in Connaught.

Has it any very distinct natural features?

It is the flattest and most fertile county in the province.—Though not half the extent of Mayo, it has nearly as much arable land, some of which is as deep and rich as any soil in Meath, Tipperary or Limerick. It is well watered with rivers and lakes, and though having no mountains deserving the name, its landscape is far from being monotonous. Like Tipperary, in former days, Roscommon is much occupied in pasture; and like that county again, it possesses coal, potter's earth, and pipe-clay. Iron ore is also found in Roscommon. (p. 75.) This was the ancient patrimony of the O'Connors, Kings of Connaught, under whom held the O'Hanlys, O'Flanegans, MacDermots or Mulronys, O'Donellans, &c.

What is the population of this county?

182 to the square mile, and that of its largest town does not

come up to 4,000, "all out." Roscommon ("Coman's marsh") is looked on as the chief town, being central and giving name to the county, though having only a few over 3,000 people. Boyle, in the north, has four hundred more, handsomely located on a stream between two lakes, Key and Gara.

It may be sufficient, then, merely to name the other townlets in this county?

Elphin is a bishopric, but the town is small. Castlereagh, Tulsk, Strokestown, Ballintober and Lanesborough are the principal other places; yet each, under the population figure, 2,000. Near Elphin is Rath-Crayhan, corresponding to the ancient Drom-Druid, the Croghan of the O'Connors, where the states of Connaught used to assemble for public business.—Parts of Carrick-on-Shannon and Athlone are on the right bank of the Shannon and, therefore, in this county. The little island of Innisclogliran and the little peninsula of Rindown, both in Lough Ree, are historic spots. In the former the celebrated Meave, queen of Connaught, was slain by her own nephew; and in the latter, De Courcy and the other English invaders took refuge, after their great overthrow at Kilmaeduagh, but out of which few escaped, besides this giant. Extensive remnants of fortifications still mark this tooth of land.

CHAPTER LXXXVI.—SLIGO.

I am already informed that Sligo is mountainous, has some beautiful lakes, a highly varied landscape, and that it contains near half a million of acres, about 63 per cent of which is arable. What else in the same line?

Its mines and fisheries are rich, but not sufficiently developed. The latter employed 575 vessels and about 3,000 men and boys, nine years ago; what its present state is, I can not say. The population of the county was 128,510, at the same time, giving 178 to each square mile.

Are there many good towns in this county?

Only one—Sligo, with an active population of about 12,000.

This is the second town and port in Connaught. At the date of our returns, 28 sailing vessels and 1 steamer belonged to this

port, but their united tonnage barely come up to 5,000. Yet, within the year, 40,000 ship-tonnage entered the harbor and 30,000 cleared out, all in the coast trade of the two islands; the foreign trade of the port, that year, sent in 17,000 and took out 9,000 tons more. But since 1851 Sligo has greatly advanced as a port; the harbor has been deepened, the quays extended and new steamers have entered into the service of its trade.

In other respects, what class of town is Sligo?

Its streets are very irregular, crossing each other without much regard to parallelism. Some of them, however, are stirring business thoroughfares, having many respectable shops.—The Pound and its vicinity, which is the highest part of the town naturally, is the lowest socially, being quite an exception to the general appearance of the place. The county bridewell here, is quite a model institution, being more of a work-house than a jail, having well-furnished seats for shoemakers, benches for carpenters, forges for smiths, washing, ironing and sewing accommodations for females, and suitable apparatus for other pursuits. The new lunatic asylum and the convent of the sisters of charity are ornaments to the town; but the Catholic parish church is out of keeping with the other buildings of the place. Several beautiful promenades surround Sligo, in particular, the charming grounds of Haselwood.

How far is Sligo from the metropolis?

About 130 miles, and 354, by water, from Liverpool, with which it principally trades. Not yet open to any railway, nearer than Enniskillen and Longford Sligo is socially isolated from the principal towns of the country; perhaps, this fact has something to do with the unhappy sectarian feeling which runs so high here, and embitters the politics of the place.—Four newspapers* are published in Sligo. The chairman of the town holds the rank of Mayor.

Any other town worth naming in this county?

Ballymote, Coloony, Ballysadare and Ballinafad are the best known, yet none of them, except the first-mentioned, numbers 1,000 inhabitants. At Ballysadare, on the Dublin road, is a

* One of these is among the oldest in the country, but appears to be dying fast; the youngest was brought into existence by the writer of these lines, Sep. 29, 1855.

pretty steep ledge of rocks, which terminates the southern arm of Sligo Bay, and over which a stream tumbles into the inlet, forming an interesting cascade. A little to the west of Ballymote is the episcopal village of Achonry.

CHAPTER LXXXVII.—LEITRIM.

We now come to the thirty-second and last county in Ireland, because the least in this province.

Leitrim is long for its breadth, forming the north-eastern section of Connaught, and, consequently, the south-western boundary of Ulster. It touches the sea for a few miles, but has no harbor larger than a fishing creek, because rocky in that extremity. Though Leitrim has much coarse upland and a good per-centage of water, it is before every county in this province, except Roscommon, in point of fertility, and is, perhaps, first in respect to mineral resources: so Moore is geographically correct, in the line,

"The valley lay *smiling* before me,"

for this was the historic Breffne of the O'Rorkes. The modern county contains 613 square miles, 36 of which are occupied by water. Population, precisely that of Sligo in proportion to extent.

Has Leitrim any large towns?

Not one. In this respect, it is the most backward county in Ireland. No town in Leitrim has more than 2,000 inhabitants.

Well, such as they are, name them.

Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim, Manorhamilton, Mohill, Dromahaire, Ballinamore, with a few still smaller villages. At Dromahaire, which is most handsomely situated on Lough Gill, is a venerable old castle kept in excellent preservation by the absentee lord of the soil, George Lane Fox, M. P., an English gentleman, whose agent, also an Englishman, resides in it. This is identified as the historic castle of O'Rorke,* prince of

*It is not generally known, that the Helen of Ireland was 40 years of age, and the Irish Paris an old man of 60, at the time of this abduction! The former died repentant, however, in the Convent of Mellifont, County of

Breffne, whose notorious wife was the indirect, though immediate, cause of the English Invasion, (p. 93.) It stands on a rising ground, overlooking that beautiful lake, imbosomed in trees and bemantled with ivy. "The poet of all circles' has made the world familiar with these associations, in one of the sweetest and best known of his inimitable melodies:—

There *was* a time, falsest of women!
When Breffni's good sword would have sought
That man, through a million of foemen,
Who dar'd but to doubt thee *in thought!*
While now—oh degenerate daughter,
Of Erin, how fall'n is thy fame!
And thro' ages of bondage and slaughter,
Our country shall bleed for thy shame.

Already, the curse is upon her,
And stangers her valleys profane!
They come to divide—to dishonor,
And tyrants they long will remain!
But, onward!—the green banner rearing,
Go, flesh every sword to the hilt;
On *our* side is Virtue and Erin!
On *theirs* is the Saxon and Guilt.

Louth. I do not say positively, that this is the identical castle, where

"No lamp from the battlements burned,"

for the reason mentioned; but I know it was pointed out as such to me, and I believe the people of the surrounding country have a tradition to that effect. A new and handsome residence is built right up against the walls apparently for the purpose of preserving the latter, which exhibit much evidence of careful stewardship.

BIOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER LXXXVIII.—PAGAN CELEBRITIES.

Lord Brougham has said—"The affairs of men, the history and interests of nations, the relative value of institutions, as discovered by their actual working, the merits of different systems of policy, as tried by their effects, are all very imperfectly examined without a thorough knowledge of the *individuals* who administered the systems and presided over the management of the public concerns." I will thank you, then, to tell me a little more about those illustrious individuals, at whose homes we have glanced in our tour through the counties.

With all my heart; but let us be systematic, by taking them in the instructive order of chronology. Authentic Irish biography may be indisputably dated from the days of Crimthan, who is associated with the Roman general, Agricola, in the undeniable page of Tacitus; that is, from the year 56, A. D.

Has Irish history, then, no great name in war or government, religion or politics, science or literature, in short, any way before this date?

Science and literature, as professions, were then confined to a very circumscribed section of the old world, which included no part of the north, middle, or west of Europe. Modern religion was not then known in the same quarters; and paganism, as a faith, has sent few names in any country down to our times. But war and government have been always developing individual character, in barbaric as well as civilized countries; and, therefore, I see no good reason for refusing to admit the existence of Ollam Fodhla, Kimbaoth, Hugony the Great, and other celebrities of the same class, respecting whom the native records say so much.

What do they say of the first-named?

That there rose up in Ireland, at a very early period of its history, a wise and great king, named Fodhla, whose prenominal designation, "Ollam" implies knowledge, and refers to that organizing capacity for which he is famed. Civil government in Ireland appears to date from this Lycurgus of the west, whose time is generally fixed in the middle of the 8th century before Christ, and, therefore, not so remote, by a hundred years, as that of the great Spartan law-giver. Kimbaoth si generally received as the porter of authentic Irish history. Ungony was another constitution-maker, whose system of twenty-five territorial dependencies existed, with little alteration, for centuries, and would seem to be, even now, at the bottom of the present county arrangement.

Respecting the other celebrities of this period?

I must refer you to Irish history, and hasten to those of our own times, in whose works we have something more than a mere sentimental interest. The four centuries from Crimthan to Logaire, first Christian king of Ireland, which witnessed the fall of the Roman Empire, teem in tradition and bardic story, with feats of Celtic chivalry. Chuchulin and Oisin were the Ulysses and Homer of this period; but it is right to say, that Ireland's claim to these celebrities, is disputed by more than one country. Armagh, however, was the local centre from which radiated the exploits of the Red-Branch Knights, who were to Leath Conn what the Dalcassian heroes were to Leath Modha. That Crimthan led his forces into Britain to assist that country against the conquering Roman legions, as attested in English history and by the Roman historian, that Nial and Dathy subsequently carried their arms into the Roman provinces of Britain and Gaul, coming off with hostages or glory, are sober historical facts which show, that the bardic superstructure is not without a corner stone.—Carbury Riada has left his name till this hour on Dalriada,* in North Britain, where he founded, in the third century, the Argyl colony which soon sprouted into that second kingdom of the Scotts. Fiedlim, by his modification of the *lex talionis* code, is said to have taken a step in constitutional reform, which was not known in England till the arrival, in the course of

* This was, also, the name of a large district in Ulster.

seven or eight centuries, of her Great Alfred. A still more illustrious name, in the same line, is Cormac Ulfada, a literary monarch and law-giver, the greatest of all since Fodhla his Royal Precepts, "Advice to Kings," are still extant. He founded colleges for the study of history, law, and war; and is thought, by some writers, to have been the author of that great curiosity on the Rock of Cashel named, till this day, "King Cormack's Chapel," (p. 113,) while others attribute it to the no less illustrious Cormac Mac Cuillenan, who flourished several centuries later. The former died, about the close of the third century, in retirement, near Kells, having been obliged to abdicate the government, in consequence of the loss of an eye, the laws of the nation tolerating no personal defect in the monarch. The famous hero, Fingall—Fin-Mac-Cumhal*—was son-in-law tothis Ulfada, whose grandfather was Conn of the Hundred Battles. For the rest, any civil history of the country, treating on this period, gives all, and, indeed, many more than legitimate biography should recognize.

CHAPTER LXXXIX.—SAINTS AND SACRED WRITERS.

It appears, we now enter upon a distinct era of Irish biography; for, in our forty-fifth dialogue, you say "the country had attracted the notice and admiration of the known world by the number of its schools and monasteries, and the shoals of missionaries they sent forth over the west, centre, and south of Europe, and, even, into Asia;" and then you refer to Nennius, Bede, Mosheim, Muratori, Canisius, the Bolandists, Allemont, and other foreign historians as attesting your statement.

Precisely so; and we now come to particulars. According to the best authorities, every saint whose Latin or Irish name is given in the following catalogue, was a native of Ireland, even where it happens that other countries reap the harvest of his labors, cherish his reliques and celebrate his festival. I believe most of these names are to be met with in the Roman Calendar, as those of canonized or beatified saints:—

* Pronounced Finmacool.

Mansuetus, first bishop of Lorraine, died 105, A. D.
Ailbe of Emly (see p. 114.)
Fiech, bishop of Sletty, (Queen's Co.)
Benignus died at Rome, 467—Reliques at Glastonbury.
Sedulius, poet, orator—Bale names 24 of his works.
Fridoline, "the traveler," founded many monasteries.
Cataldus, apostle of Tarento, native of Munster.
Cianan, bishop of Duleek.
Bridget of Kildare, the virgin, born in Ulster, or Louth.
Brogan of Ossory—his works translated by Colgan.
Nimidus, "the Fair"—his latin hymns in Colgan.
Dermod, of Inis-Clothran, an author, died 540.
Finian, bishop of Clonard, Meath, 552.
Kiaran, of Clonmacnoise, 549. (p. 152.)
Jarlath, of Tuam, born in Down.
Cogitosus, nephew of St. Bridget, wrote her "Life."
Amergin, poet laureate, (another of this name.)
Frigidian, apostle of Lucca, (Italy,) an Ulster prince.
Brendan, founder of Clonfert, native of Kerry.
Ruadan of Lothra (Munster)—3 works.
Congall, founder of Bangor and other colleges, 554.
Columbkille, apostle of the Picts (p. 124,)—"Prophecies."
Berchan, "the prophet," lived about 560.
Eochaid, "the blind,"—his M. S. in Marsh's Library, (Dub.)
Canice, of Kilkenny, born in Ulster, died 599.
Coleman, of Cloyne, (several saints of this name.)
Kevin, of Glendalough, (read Griffin's "Cathaline.")
Evin, of Ross, (Colgan had his works.)
Molua, of Clonfert—his "Rule" valued by Greg. I.
Munna, of Wexford, Lassarian, of Leighlin, Coleman, of Mayo, Dagan, of Achad-Dagan. } Principal champions in the great Paschal controversy, Lassarian taking the Roman *versus* the Irish side.
Columba—the city of San Columbano, Lodi, called after him.
Coleman, of Dromore—Rule for Monks, and other writings.
Murus, an O'Neill—The O'Neill's swore upon his crozier.
Cuan, "the wise," bishop of Louth, died 824.
Gall—the city of St. Gall, (Switzerland) called after him.
Carthag, (Carthy) native of Kerry.
Jonas, of Luxville, (Burgundy)—several biographies.

Livinus, one of the few Irish martyrs.
Moling, "archbishop of Ferns!"—a "prophet," says Cambrensis.
Ultan MacConcubar died at Ardbraccan, 655.
Segene, of Rathlin Island—"Homilies," "Epistles," &c.
Aidan, apostle of Northumbria, (Northumberland) England.
Braccan of Ard Braccan, (Meath)—"*Future* Wars of Ireland."
Camin, of Inis-Keltair (Shannon)—"Commentaries"—653.
Finan, converter of Mid-Angles and East-Angles,(England.)
Fiacre—the French observe his festival, August 18th.
Fursey, a Munster prince, martyred in Picardy 648 or '5
Munchin, an eminent author and abbot.
Arbogast, bishop of Strasburgh, (Germany) 646.
Aileran, regent of Clonard, (Meath)—several works.
Cumin, of Connor, wrote a metrical treatise on Irish saints.
Cumian, of Roscrea, very learned, native of Tirconnel.
Failbe, abbot of Iona, (Scotland)—native of Donegal.
Faran, Boigalac, Moeltule. } These three, of one family, wrote a body of civil and cannon laws, named "Sacred judgments."
Disidod, bishop of Dublin—religious writings.
Maildulph—Malsbury (Mal-Dulfi-urbs) named from him.
Cuthbert, of Lindisfarne, (England)—sacred writings.
Kilian, apostle of Franconia, martyred July 8, 689.
Theodore, a literary archprelate.
Adamnus, an eminent traveler, author and saint.
Chaelian, a monk of Inis-Keltair, and an author.
Sedulius, the younger, bishop of Oreto, Spain. (p.88.)
Colman Vamach, "scribe of Armagh," died 724.
Albuin, apostle of Upper Saxony where his festival is kept, October 26.
Ermedus, bishop of Clogher, wrote "Life of St. Patrick."
Virgil, an illustrious philosopher and divine, died 785,
O'Dunechada, "the wise," professor at Clonmacnoise.
Aengus, a very voluminous and learned ecclesiographer.
Fathadius, "de canonibus," a profound ecclesiastical jurist.
Dicuil, a writer on Geography and Grammar.
Albin, Clement, } Placed by Charlamagne over his new universities of Pavia and Paris, respectively.
Claud, a learned biblical commentator of this century.

Dugal, a controversial monk of St. Dennis, (Paris.)
Donat, bishop of Fiesole, wrote in verse on Ireland.
Andrew—his "life" published by a Florentine ambassador.
Findan, travelled, wrote, and died, 827, on the Rhine.
Feidlemid, king of Munster, 840, a learned anchorite.
Moengal governed the schools of St. Gall.
Patrick, bishop, writer, anchorite, died in England, 861.
Erigena ("son of Erin")—an intellectual giant, a prodigy.
Macarius, thought the soul material—"*De Statu Animae.*"
MacMailchuvai, "most learned doctor of the Scotts."
Buo and Ernulphus, "apostles of Iceland."
MacCuillenan, bishop-king of Cashel, author of the "Psalter."
Probus, an ecclesiastical historian of repute.
MacLiag, biographer of Boru—"Munster Book of Battles."
Aed, a learned but eccentric teacher, 12th century.
Flan Manistree—historical works and poetry.
Marianus, "without comparison, the most learned of his age."
Tigernac, a very reliable annalist.
O'Brolcain, of Enishowen—"divers works," died 1086.
Eraid, secretary to Malachy, king of Ireland, wrote much.
Gelsus, a theological writer, archbishop of Armagh.
Malachy, such another.
O'Heney, prelate of Cashel, a sacred writer.
Sacrobosco—a name in every general biographical dictionary.
Peter, "the Irishman," eminent teacher of Thomas Aquinas.
Palmeran, of Meath, fellow of Sarbonne (France)—Extensive writings.
O'Toole, archbishop of Dublin, who fought the English, 1172.
Gotofred, a friar of Waterford, and distinguished linguist.
Dun-Scotus, "the subtile doctor," such another as Erigena.
O'Halloran, "Ocham,"—profound learning, a "cardinal."
Malachy, chaplain to Ed. II.—half a dozen works.
Godham, a most learned commentator, disciple of O'Halloran.
Gibbellan, cannon of Tuam—poetry and philosophy.
O'Buge—Stanihurst compares him to Saint Augustine.
Gilbert, of Urgale, (Louth,) a friar and author, 1330.
Author of the Annals of Ross, lived in 1346.
Clynne, of Kilkenny, author of "Annalum Chronicon."
Fitz-Ralph, archbishop of Armagh—about 12 works.
Kelly, a literary archbishop of Cashel, son (?) of O'Buge!

Hugh, "of Ireland," a distinguished traveler and writer.
William, of "Drogheda," cannon-law professor at Oxford.
Crump, of Baltinglas, a very bold, theological writer.
Fleming, archbishop of Armagh, "Provincial Constitutions."
Ragget, bishop of Cork and Ossory—much learning, 1421.
William, of "Waterford," a religious writer of this century.
Norris, a bold priest, of Dundalk, and D. D. of Oxford.
Maguire, of Fermanagh, philosopher, divine, and historian.
O'Fihely, of Tuam, ("*Flos Mundi*")—many heavy writings.
Maguire, bishop of Leitrim, an historical writer.
Fitch, author of "White Book of Christ Church," (Dublin) &c.
Cassidy, a respectable writer and scholar (p. 137.)
Travers, a priest, opposed Henry VIII, with pen and pike—hanged at Tyburn.

CHAPTER XC.—EXPLANATION.

Is there no doubt about it—that all those illustrious characters were natives of Ireland?

The truth requires it to be mentioned, that more than one country contends for the nativity of Sedulius, Erigena, St. Gall, Cataldus, Dunscot and a few others named in the above list. It looks also strange, if not improbable, that St. Mansuetus, who was a disciple of St. Peter by whom he was sent into Lorraine, so early as the year 66, should have been born in the far west. But the fact is—these questions have been over and over discussed by the Ushers of Europe, and the weight of argument brings the biographical scales, in the matters before us, to the side at which they here turn. (See Usher's *Primordiis*, p. p. 747 to 1038.) Mosheim, the German Protestant historian, speaks of the Irish of those days in these words—"those lovers of learning, who distinguished themselves in times of ignorance by the culture of the sciences *beyond any other European nation*, travelling through the most distant lands to improve and communicate their knowledge—those Hibernians who were the first teachers of the scholastic theology in Europe."*

*And is it not so, to a great extent, at this present hour: look at the Catholic Church in the United States, Canada, Newfoundland and Australia; and

Is this, then, the full list of Irish celebrities during the middle ages?

How could that be, when it is confined to *one* class, the ecclesiastical, and does not contain all of that class, either? Several names belonging to this category, but omitted here, by reason of our limits, may be seen in Ware's "*Veteres Scriptores.*"

CHAPTER XCI.—MODERN CELEBRITIES.

Has Ireland produced any very distinguished characters, during the three last centuries?

So many, in almost every walk of life, as to constitute, to a certain extent, a species of social phenomena, when the wretched state of the country, during three-fourths of the period, is taken into account. The previous state of civil convulsion, during four hundred years, had brought the nation to a very low condition indeed, at the end of that period; and it was, also, at the end of that period, that the bitter polemical ingredient was thrown in and stirred up to effervesce the horrid batter. Proscription of conscience was inseparable from proscription of knowledge, and wholesale confiscation kept up a standing artificial famine, so that Burke's awful picture of the Decan, when the tempest of Hyder Ally had swept it, would seem to have been only a copy of that which his native land had presented for many generations—"Not one man, not one woman, not one four-footed beast could be seen for miles—one wide, uniform desolation reigned around!"—Such is not the soil or the climate in which we are accustomed to look for literary or scientific plesiosaura.

I will thank you, then, for the principal names in modern Irish biography?

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look at the Irish Propaganda of All-Hollows, near Dublin, supported mainly by the penny contributions of the poor of Ireland, for the special and sole purpose of educating and ordaining Irish missionaries for foreign countries.

Grouped according to pursuit, and arranged with some regard for chronology, they may be enumerated thus:—

In natural science and experimental philosophy: Brounker, Boyle, Orrery, Molyneux, Ashe, Hurley, Sloan, Clayton, Berkeley, Brown, ("the Irish Linnaeus,") Keogh, Darci, Black, Helsham, Cusack, Simon, Kirwan, Stewart, McBride, Robinson, Lloyd, Callen, Haughton, Cooper, Ross, Stokes, Sullivan, (the chemist,) Lardner. The eight, last named, are still living.

In moral philosophy, divinity and metaphysics: Lombard, Arthur, Bruodine, Ponce, Wadding, (Peter,) Kearney, Baron, Hickey, Hacket, Linze, Mathews, Roth, Annesley, Dodwell, King, Toland, Abernethy, (not Hunter's pupil,) Sall, Peppard, Delany, Leslie, Synge, Henderson, Walsh, Hutcheson, Leland, (not the historian) Burridge, Story, Brown, Boyce, (not the poet,) Talbot, Clarke, Duchal, Maguire, Skelton, Lawson.—Nine or ten of the first named, in this group, lived in foreign countries.

In history and antiquities: Pembridge, Stanihurst, Dowling, Usher, Ware, Wadding, Ward, Colgan, the Four Masters, two Magheogans, Keating, Lynch, White, Cox, Halliday, Flaherty, the two Charles O'Connors, O'Halleran, Pilkington, Beauford, Ledwidge, Lanigan, Petrie, O'Donovan, Dalton.—Several translators, including Harris and Kelly, several local historians, including McSkimming, and several biographers, including Parr, are omitted as second-class reputations.

Poets: Roscommon, Parnel, Delany, Eusden, Boyse, Dunken, Moncks, Jones, O'Daly, Milikin, Carolan, Fitzgerald, Lucas, (not the patriot, but his son,) Dermody, Brook, (Miss,) Percy, Wolfe, Furlong, Callanan, MacDonnell, Collins, (not the author of "Oriental Eclogues,") Sullivan, Davis, (Thomas,) Davis, (Francis,) Mangan, Walshe, Moore, MacCarthy, Curran, (Grattan,) Frazer, Cooke, (Eliza,) Lover, Irving, Ferguson, McGee, "Slingsby." The five, last named, are living, as, also, Francis Davis, and several unquestionable poets, whose anonymous productions have been published in the Nation newspaper and the goodly volume edited by Mr. Hays, of Edinburgh, but not yet separately in the book form. This accounts for their omission here, with several third-rate reputations, to be found in Hardiman.

Dramatists: Congreve, Clancy, Pilon, Farquahar, O'Brien

Ryan, (Lacy,) Murphy, O'Hara, Sullivan, O'Keefe, Griffith, Head, Cleutlivre, Clive, Southern, Oultan, Morgan, Cherry, Bickerstaff, Madden, Derrick, Molloy, two Sheridans, Dancer, Kelly, Gregory, Pilkington, Ashton, Boyd, Maturin, Glengall, Savage. Mr. Savage is the only one of these living, and, therefore, not to be confounded with the unfortunate English poet of that name.

In poetry and dramatics: Denham, Brady, Tate, Goldsmith, Clancy, Cooke, (Wm.) Concanen, Francis, Cunningham, Griffin, Shiel. The last name is illustrious in senatorial and forensic oratory.

In histrionic delineation: Wilks, Dogget, Macklin, Mossop, Pope, Barry, (Spranger,) MacSwiny, Quinn, Sheridan, ("Manager,")Johnstone, Stephens, Power, Williams, Sullivan, (Barry,) Collins,———Woffington, Abingdon, Glover, Tighe, Farren, Hays, with several already mentioned, as dramatists. The last six names are those of lady "stars," and four of the entire group are still "shining," with a whole ballet of many popular characters, not up, however, to our standard, and, therefore, omitted.

In legislation and jurisprudence: Bellew, Ormond, Broderick, Yelverton, Dowdall, Grattan, Charlemont, Flood, Plunket, Burke, Curran, Fitzgibbon, O'Connell, Barrington, MacCartney.

In war and prowess: two O'Neills, (Hugh and Owen Roe,) two O'Briens, (Morough and he of Fontenoy,) three MacDonnells, ("Colkitto," he of Cremona, and the *Duc de Tarento.*) O'More, O'Donnell, O'Dogherty, Castlehaven, Broghill, Sarsfield, O'Sullivan Beare, (Daniel.) Magheogan, (of Dunbhwy, De Courcy, Mahony, ("le fameux,") Dillon, Penn, Mathew, Jumper Blood, Tucky, Hogan, Kent, Drury, Coote, (Eyre,) Blackwell, Carleton, (of Quebec,) Wolfe Tone, Corbett, Lawless, Tandy, Barry, Wellington, Gough, I have here overlooked the illustrious Lally; because, though Irish by parentage, name and feeling, I believe he was born in France. For the rest, see O'Connor's or O'Callaghan's Irish "Brigade."

In medicine and surgery: Abernethy, O'Connor, (of Poland,) two O'Mearas, O'Connell ("the Irish Gaubius") Greatrex, or Greatrakes, Rogers, Graves, Crampton, Corrigan, Barry, Marshe, Wilde, Cusack, O'Reilly. The last seven are our cotemporaries.

In polite literature, wit and romance: Swift, Steel, Molesworth, several Boyles, (Roger, Charles, John and Charlotte,) several Sheridans, (including the old Doctor and Mrs. Frances,) Fielding, O'Leary, Johnstone, De la Conr, Banim, the Brontes, Maginn, (of Derry,) Maginn, (of Cork,) Edgeworth, Croker, Roche, ("J. R.,") Wise, Carleton, Glover, Giles, Hall, with many named above, the most classical of whom are Goldsmith, Congreve, Hutcheson, Burke, Murphy, Kelly, Southern, Moore, Griffin, Lover.

In social reform: Ormond, (Piers Butler,) Worth, Denny, McDonnell, (of Newfoundland,) Southwell, Smith, (Erasmus,) Father Mathew, Foster, Spratt. The two last-named, are still living. For a group of this class, see page 162.

Political writers: Borlace, Darcy, Nagle, Lucas (Charles,) Scully, O'Connor, (Arthur,) Drennan, Neilson, MacNevin, Sampson, Doyle, ("J. K. L.") Madden, (not the dramatist,) O'Callaghan, Duffy, O'Brien, O'Connell, (John,) Mitchell, Staunton, Barry, Cahill, besides many already named, the chief of whom are Molyneux, Swift, Broderick, Grattan, Burke, O'Connell, Shiel, Davis. This Lucas must not be confounded with the late eminent editor of the "Tablet," whose name was Frederick and whose birth was English.

In different other departments: O'Brien, Cockeran, MacCurtin, Sheridan, Sullivan, (five lexicographers,) Smith, Stafford, (two geographers) O'Gilby, Walshe, Dowling, Wilson, Webb, Dowdall, Grierson, (Constantia,) Plunket and Hurly, (two archbishops and patriot-martyrs,) with a long array of lay and clerical holocausts, in particular, the Bishop of Ross, Silken Thomas, the last Desmond, Emmet, (Robert,) Lord Edward Fitzgerald, and the one hundred and forty-three heroes of Dunbhwy; Prior, Malone, Emmet (Addis,) Hutcheson, (Hely,) Philips, Meagher, (orators,) Kane, Russel, MacHale, Magee, Graves, Gilbert and other writers. The last seven are still living. In music—Mills, Bunworth, Ashe, De la Main, Kane, Talbot; in painting—Barry, (James,) Copley, Archdall, Barret, Baillie, Beard, Brooks, Collins, Gilray, Hone, Jervas, Murphy, Maclise, Walmsley, Thomson, Tresham; in sculpture—Hogan, Foley, MacDonnell; in architecture—Burlington, the two Robinsons, Barry, &c. Pope says, Lord Burlington's fame filled the land with "imitating fools."

CHAPTER XCII.—EXPLANATION.

I avow, this long catalogue makes me suspicious and anxious to be satisfied on two points: first, whether names of no reputation are inserted therein to swell the list; and, second, whether Ireland has a just claim, by birth or education, to all?

In reply to your first question, I candidly confess, that a few writers are there named, whose claims to notice will stand no advantageous comparison with twice the number unavoidably overlooked, by reason of my ignorance. In answer to your second interrogatory, I also frankly allow, that I have a doubt respecting the nativity of a few more. But, in no instance, has demerit or foreign natality got into that catalogue, except *by mistake*; while large reputations connected with the country by residence, labors, and parentage, are wholly and deliberately left out, because the link of *de facto* nativity is broken. I allude to the foreign-born sons of Irish parents who have left their names in British, Italian, French, Spanish, Austrian and American histories, and to such celebrities as Marsh, Boulter, Taylor, Abbadie, Bale, the Great Earl of Cork, Bedel, Bramhall, Budgell, Chappel, &c., whose lives and writings, but not whose births, belong to Ireland.

I am not yet satisfied, and must now trouble you to let me judge for myself the respective claims to immortality of your chief celebrities.

CHAPTER XCIII.—NATURALISTS.

Brounker, one of the autodidactic class: but, though self-educated, a profound mathematician—author of the "First series for the quadrature of the hyperbola," first president of the Royal Society, (London,) and its reputed founder—Cork.

Robert Boyle, inventor of the air-pump, discoverer of phosphorus, whose "Observations" and "Discourse on attraction and suction" opened the way for Newton, to whom Anthony le Grand, the Cartesian philosopher, dedicated his "*Historia Naturae*," and applied Averroe's estimate of Aristotle—"Nature had formed him, as an examplar or pattern of the high-

est perfection to which humanity can attain." (p. p. 103, 120.)

Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery—a barony in Cork—a literary and scientific scholar, the reputed inventor of the "orrery," kinsman of the last.

Molyneux, first writer on the science of dioptrics, an illustrious philosopher and patriot, whose "Case of Ireland," asserting his country's independence of England, was ordered to be burned by the common hangman!

Sloan, a physician, first introducer of bark in medicine, author of a ponderous and costly work—"The Natural History of Jamaica," in two illustrated volumes, folio. He succeeded Newton as President of the Royal Society. His collection of curiosities, for which the government gave his family 20,000 pounds sterling, was, with his library of 50,000 volumes, the nucleus of the British Museum, now, perhaps, the largest in the world—a good man and a great physicist.

Berkeley, born and educated in Kilkenny, (pp. 148 and 9,) "Theory of Vision," "Minute Philosopher," "The Annalist," "Principles of Knowledge," which last, proving the non-existence of matter, "admit of no answer and produce no conviction"—a world-wide reputation.

Keogh, professor at Oxford, profound science and classical scholar—"Greek Lexicon," Greek and Latin Grammars, &c.

Darci resided at Paris—subjects: vision, artillery, mechanics.

Black, of Belfast—"He has an incontestible claim to be regarded as the founder of modern chemistry"—Brougham

Kirwan, of Galway, another Black—Lanigan regarded him as a match for Newton, in the knowledge of nature.

Donald Stewart, the indefatigable mineralogist.

Robinson, of the Royal Irish Academy, one of the deepest of living scholars in abstruse science.

Cooper, Ross. } Living astronomers. Cooper's observatory is at Markree, in Sligo, where he composed the astronomical chart, to the publication of which the Royal Lloyd, } Society is now giving its parliamentary grant; as the French government are publishing the star-chart of M. Chacornac. By Cooper's instrument, the strange fact has been detected, that 77 stars, before known, are now missed from the heavens!

Callen, of Maynooth, on electricity and magnetism, Haughton on the tides, McCullagh and Stokes on light, have broken

much new ground in these fields of nature. McGauley is the author of a good volume, embracing all departments of experimental philosophy.

CHAPTER XCIV.—METAPHYSICIANS, DIVINES, ETHICISTS.

Dodwell, so poor at first, that he had to write with charcoal, author of a great number of works, tiresome to enumerate—vast learning developing a great genius.

King, author of "*Origine Mali*," a poor miller's son of Antrim, rose to be archbishop of Dublin.

Toland, the boldest infidel the Island of Saints has produced—a meteor of learning, vanity and patriotism.

Synge—59 tracts in divinity—high reputation.

Hutcheson, the greatest Irish name in ethics. First, a poor schoolmaster in Dublin; afterwards, professor of philosophy in the university of Edinburgh: works, "Ideas of Beauty and Virtue," "The Passions," &c.

Samuel Clarke, "unquestionably the most learned man ever connected with the Methodist Church," as his "Commentaries" prove, born in the north of Antrim.

Henderson, "the Irish Crighton," whose traditionary fame as a universal genius, is so large, but whose works are so few, belongs to Limerick.

The above seven are the most famed of this group.

Wadding, divine, rhetorician, ethicist—many works.

Baron, of Clonmel, "best Latin writer,"—14 works.

Linze of Spain, native of Galway—"*Summa Philosophiae.*"

Roth, bishop of Ossary—"Annalecta Sacra."

Abernethy of Colerain—"Moral Attributes," "Sermons," &c.

Sall, of Cashel, distinguished in controversy.

Peppard, born in Drogheda, died 1640, a philosopher.

Leslie, of Glaslough, wrote much polemical and political.

Leland—"View of Deistical Writers," "Oratory," &c.

Burridge, Latin translator of Locke's "Understanding."

Brown, refuter of Toland—"The Human Understanding."

Talbot—several religious works.

Duchal, successor of Clarke—700 sermons! &c.

Maguire—controversy—opponent of Pope and Gregg.

Dixon, present Catholic archbishop of Armagh, 1 good work.

CHAPTER XCV.—HISTORIANS.

Usher, "a scholar second to none these islands have produced, except, perhaps, Selden"—one of the highest reputations belonging to historical literature—"Chronology," "History of the British Churches," &c., born in Dublin, archbishop of Armagh and principal founder of the Dublin university.

Ware, a baronet, born in Dublin—extensive works on Irish ecclesiastical history, scarcely inferior to Usher.

Wadding of Rome, born in Waterford, uncle of Baron, principal foreign supporter of the Revolution, in 1641, founder of the College of St. Isadore and other Irish establishments on the Tiber—most extensive biographical, historical, and canonical writer. Luke Wadding was a prodigy.

Colgan, author of "Thaumaturga," professor at Louvain, a voluminous but credulous historical compiler.

Dr. Charles O'Connor, such another as Ware, a most respectable name in historic compilation. These five used the Latin language as their medium.

Lanigan, professor of Hebrew, divinity and sacred history in the university of Pavia, (Italy) till obliged to fly on the invasion of Lombardy by Napoleon; afterward, translator and librarian to the Dublin Society, from 1799 till his death in a lunatic asylum, 1828: author of "Prologomena" to the Scriptures, "Preface" to the "Protestant Apology" of William Talbot, (the preface being four times the size of the work itself!) "Ecclesiastical History of Ireland," with 8 good volumes of translations from the Spanish, German, French, &c., and editor of 22 volumes of statistical surveys, Alban Butler's "Moral Discourses," the Roman Breviary, and other works—all falling on one brain, "cracked it," (see p. 90.) This Irish Muratori was born in Cashel. These six historians are, perhaps, the weightiest of this group, if one or two living writers be not referred to.

Lynch, Flaherty, O'Halleran, and the Abbe MacGeoghegan are disquisitionists of much merit, the first and the last being as much disputants and politicians as historians.

Note.—Since the above has been written, we learn that Dionysius Lardner, known to the world by his scientific works, is dead—born in Wexford.

CHAPTER XCVI.—POETS.

"Denham," says Johnson, "is one of the founders of the English language." In his tragedy of the "Sophy," writes Waller, "he broke out like the Irish rebellion, when nobody was aware!" His "Cooper's Hill," remarks Dryden, "for majesty of style is, and ever will be, the standard of good writing,"—born in Dublin, buried with Chaucer.

Roscommon—"if equalled," says Fenton, "by any poet of our nation, he is inferior to none." Comparing him with Dryden, Pope writes:

"Unhappy Dryden! in all Charles's days,
Roscommon only boasts unspotted lays."

His proper name Dillon, is now lost in his title, "Roscommon."

Carolan, one of the most unmistakable poetic and musical geniuses spoken of in history or biography. "Of all the bards this country ever produced, the last and greatest was Carolan, the blind. He was at once a poet, a musician, and composer, and sang his own verses to his harp."—Goldsmith.

Brady and Tate, like Beaumont and Fletcher, are inseparable. Their united translation of the Royal Psalmist has long superseded every other in the English language. Brady has left us a translation of the Æneid, and Tate 9 dramas—born, respectively, in Bandon and Dublin.

Thomas Parnel, vicar of Finglass, (Dublin,) one of the easiest and happiest, because one of the most natural of poets—"Allegory on Man," "The Hermit,"—died 1717.

"What heart but feels his sweetly moral lay,
That leads to truth through pleasure's flow'ry way."

Goldsmith—"Ye who care for nature, for the charms of song, for the deeds of ancient days, weep for the historian, the naturalist, the poet!"—Johnson. Departments: poetry, the drama, natural history, civil history, fiction, didactics, biography! Greece or Rome in their palmiest days might well be proud of such an intellect.

Moore—"The poet of all circles," the Anacreon of the British Isles, the greatest lyric poet in the English language, was born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College: "The

Melodies," "Lalla Rhook," "Little's Poems," "Anacreon," in English, "History of Ireland," "Life of Byron," and other works. These are the most distinguished names in Irish poetry.

CHAPTER XCVII.—DRAMATISTS—ACTORS.

Congreve—"Among all the efforts of early genius which literary history records, I doubt whether any one can be produced, that more surpasses the common limits of nature, than the plays of Congreve."—Johnson. "He raised the glory of comedy to a greater height than any other English writer"—Voltaire. He "is next to Shakespeare"—Dryden. But he far exceeded Shakespeare in comedy, while Pope and Dryden submitted their great works to him for revision. Born in Dublin, educated in Kilkenny—died 1728.

Farquahar, Murphy, O'Keefe, Southern, Kelly and Brooke, were polite writers and dramatic authors of the first class, whose respective statures require a nicely graduated scale to determine; as they allow very little to that of Congreve, in the way of precedence. The least of these seven names would reflect credit on any national literature. Clancy, Pilon, Mrs. Centlivre, Cherry, Bickerstaf, Madden, Molloy Sheridan, Maturen, have secured respectable niches in dramatic biography; while Madden and Sheridan stand on still higher pedestals elsewhere.

In the sock and buskin group, are named a dozen stars of the first magnitude. Wilks was the first great Irish delineator, whose genius commanded reluctant homage from the English public—born 1670. Macklin, Mossop, Barry, Quinn, "manager Sheridan," and "Peg" Woffington, immediately appeared to dazzle and delight. In their special fortes, Spranger Barry and Quinn were acknowledged giants, perhaps no way inferior to Garrick; and, as a beauty and an actress, Woffington had no rival on the English stage. Of their living successors, the classic Barry Sullivan and the amiable Catherine Hays, need only be named to be recognized, as fully sustaining the proverbial reputation of Irish genius in histrionic science.

CHAPTER XCVIII.—OTHER GREAT MEN.

Of the next group, the heroes of the Yellow Ford, Benburb, Limerick, Cremona, Fontenoy, Pondecherry, Waterloo, and the Sutlej, possess the greatest fame. Coote and Gough were born in Limerick, the former in the city, the latter near it; and Meath has the singular privilege of having produced the conqueror of the modern Charlemagne.

At Affane in Waterford, was born, in 1628, that strange prodigy, whose wonderful cures, in Ireland and England, by the bare *touch of his hand*, are so well attested by Robert Boyle, the learned Henry Stubb and several bishops and clergymen. (See p. 118.)

In legislation, oratory and letters, England has produced no match for Burke. His head is as high over the two Pitts, her greatest men in this line, as the sword of Wellington is over that of Marlborough. "There can be no hesitation," says Brougham, "in according him a place among the most extraordinary persons that have ever appeared." Of Grattan the same distinguished writer speaks thus: "While yet in the prime of youth, he had achieved a victory which stands at the head of all the triumphs ever won by a patriot for his country in modern times." And again, "It would not be easy to point out any statesman or patriot, in any age of the world, whose fame stands higher, nor is it possible to name any one the purity of whose reputation has been stained by so few faults. In private life he was without a stain, whether of temper or of principle." Of O'Connell, it is enough to say, that he rivaled Burke and Grattan. It is in that notice of Grattan, that the English law-lord makes this candid avowal: "*The misrule and oppression exercised by England over the Irish people, extended to all their commercial dealings as well as to their political rights.*"

THE END.

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